Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Baghdad Hosts Fourth Arab Popular Conference 1
Saddam Delivers Address *[Baghdad TV]* 1
Tariq 'Aziz Confers With Delegates *[INA]* 3
Ramadan Meets Arab Jurists Delegation *[Baghdad TV]* 3
Ramadan Receives Palestinian Delegation *[Baghdad TV]* 3
Conferees Issue Statement *[INA]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat's Plane Reportedly Makes Emergency Landing *[AFP]* 5
'Arafat's 'Unexpected' Visit to Cairo Reported *[Jericho VOP]* 5
Talks With Mubarak Detailed *[Jericho VOP]* 6
Al-Husayni on 'Arafat-Mubarak Talks, 1 Jul Date *[Cairo International]* 6
'Abd-Rubbuh on Need for Unity, Christopher Tour *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Jun]* .. 7
Minister Notes 'Concern' as 1 Jul Deadline Nears *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Jun]* 7
'Abd-al-Shafi: Palestinian State 'Farther Than Ever' *[HA'ARETZ 6 Jun]* 8
Al-Tibi on Political Aspirations, Land Seizures *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
Jordanian Envoy Arrives in Jericho En Route to Gaza *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Predicts Better Relations *[Jericho VOP]* 10
Ministry Issues Statement on Hebron Incident *[Jericho VOP]* 10
Hamas Accuses Israeli Paper of Distorting Yasin Remarks *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Jun]* 10
APF Central Command Holds Meeting *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 11
Palestinian TV To Start First Broadcasts in W. Bank *[AFP]* 11

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Secret' Palestinian-Israeli Talks Said Held in Rome *[MENA]* 11
More on 'Secret' Talks *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Jun]* 12
Palestinian-Israeli Talks To Resume in Cairo *[Jericho VOP]* 12
PA's al-Tarifi Arrives for Talks *[MENA]* 12

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Hamrouche, Ben Hamouda Set To Contest Presidency *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 4 Jun]* 13
Foreign Minister Meets UN Security Council Group *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Government, HAMAS Meet, Exchange Similar Views *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Minister Inaugurates Local Radio Station *[Algiers Radio]* 14
More Local Stations Planned *[Algiers Radio]* 14
Republican National Alliance Declaration *[LIBERTÉ 7 May]* 14

Egypt

Mubarak, Rabin, Christopher To Meet in Cairo *[MENA]* 17
Foreign Minister Reviews Mubarak-'Arafat Talks *[MENA]* 17
Western 'Discrimination' Over Bosnia Viewed *[MENA]* 18
Columnist Criticizes Pentagon Middle East Report *[AL-AHRAM 29 May]* 18
Opposition Parties Reject Amended Penal Code *[AL-WAFD 30 May]* 18
Daily Claims New Press Law 'Shackles Democracy' *[AL-AKHBAR 29 May]* 20
Trade Line With Gaza Begins Operation *[MENA]* 20
Daily Criticizes Algeria's 'Muslim Fundamentalists' *[MENA]* 20

Sudan

More Ummah Party Members Detained; Plot Alleged *[London International]* 21
Radio Views Crackdown on al-Mahdi, Opposition *[London International]* 21
Rebel Returnees 'Convinced' Dialogue Necessary *[SUNA]* 22

Tunisia

*Embargo Impacts on Employment Opportunities *[Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE 19 Apr]* 22

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Urges Caution Over Israeli Normalization *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Jun]* 25

Kuwait

Bosnian Prime Minister Silajdzic Pays Visit 25
Urges Force Against Serbs *[KUNA]* 25
Decries Serb Expansionism *[Kuwait Radio]* 26
Promotes Lifting Arms Embargo *[Kuwait TV]* 26
UAE Chief of Staff Arrives for Cooperation Talks *[KUNA]* 27
Holds Talks With Amir, Prime Minister *[Kuwait Radio]* 27

Saudi Arabia

Yemeni President, Delegation Arrive on Visit *[SPA]* 27
Salih Makes Statement *[SPA]* 28
Trade Gap Persists Despite Lower Imports *[AFP]* 28

Yemen

Daily Interviews President on Upcoming Saudi Visit *[Sanaa Radio]* 29
Makes Predeparture Statement *[Sanaa Radio]* 30
Salih Sends Messages to British, Italian Leaders *[Sanaa Radio]* 30

IRAQ

Tariq 'Aziz Denies Readiness To Accept 986 *[Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY]* 31
BABIL: Saddam 'Determined To Liberate Palestine' *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 31
Tehran 'Agents' Assassinate Kurdish Activists *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Jun]* 31
UN Confirms Defection of Iranian Helicopter Pilot *[AFP]* 31
Kurds Say 200 Turkish Troops Deployed in North *[AFP]* 32
'Saddam's Commandos' Hold Parade for Saddam *[AL-THAWRAH 30 Apr]* 32
Baghdad Securities Market Manager Interviewed *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 15 Mar]* 34

ISRAEL

Rabin, Peres Comment on Palestinian Track *[DAVAR 6 Jun]* 36
Peres: Chance of Meeting 1 Jul Deadline Exists *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 36
Rabin Considering Egypt-U.S.-Israel Summit *[THE JERUSALEM POST 6 Jun]* 36
Sarid Comments on Palestinian State, Syrian Track *[Jericho VOP]* 36
Jerusalem Radio Reports Sarid Remarks 37
Beilin Labor Circle Suggests Additions to Platform *[HA'ARETZ 5 Jun]* 37
SHAS Reportedly May Support Golan Withdrawal *[New Channel 2 TV]* 38
NRP Plans New Golan Heights Settlement *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 5 Jun]* 38
Netanyahu Presents Primary System; Balloting Started *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Netanyahu Wins 'Sweeping Victory' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Labor Rejects Proposal To Defer Direct Elections Bill *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Report on PRC Arms Sales Said To Ease U.S. Pressure *[HA'ARETZ 6 Jun]* 39

JORDAN

Further on Talks Between King, Germany's Kohl *[Amman Radio]* 41
Paper: Tripartite Summit Embodies 'Commitment' to Peace *[AL-DUSTUR 6 Jun]* 41
Israel Offering 'Huge' Sums to Jerusalem Landowners *[AL-MAJD 5 Jun]* 41
Joint Palestinian Business Meeting Opens in Amman *[Amman TV]* 42
'Sources' Note 'Large Scale' Arrest Campaign 42
Irbid Group's Leaders Detained *[AL-MAJD 5 Jun]* 42
JDPUP Members Arrested *[AL-MAJD 5 Jun]* 42

LEBANON

President Outlines Plans for Discussions With Chirac *[AFP]* 43
Al-Hariri Delivers Government Policy Statement *[Beirut Radio]* 43
'Powerful Blast' Kills 1 in Bint Jubayl Residence *[Voice of the South]* 47

SYRIA

UK Parliamentary Team Meets Leading Officials *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Israel Urged To Make 'Sound' Decision on Withdrawal *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Commentary Notes 'Progress' in Israeli 'Mentality' *[Damascus TV]* 49
Radio: Peres Peace Statements Need 'Greater Clarity' *[Damascus Radio]* 49
Press Reiterates al-Asad's Remarks on Peace, Golan *[Damascus Radio]* 50
Columnist Questions PLO 'Wager' on Israeli Talks *[AL-BA'TH 4 Jun]* 51

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Aide Views Detained 'Terrorists,' Stingers to Iran *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Jun]* 52
Algerian 'Terrorists' Involved in War To Be Tried *[Algiers TV]* 52
Senior General of Dostam Forces Killed *[Kabul Radio]* 52
Radio Says Taleban Secretly Led by Khalq Faction *[Kabul Radio]* 53

India

'Discordant' Statements by U.S. on Kashmir Faulted *[NAVBHARAT TIMES 3 Jun]* 53
Sudan Foreign Minister Visits, Meets Mukherjee *[ISI]* 54
'Sources:' Pakistani-Backed Militant Plan Foiled *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Army Chief of Staff Comments on 'Internal' Duties *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 28 May]* 54
Congress-I Official Views 'Opportunistic Alliance' *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Uttar Pradesh Coalition Government Collapses *[Delhi Radio]* 55
New Uttar Pradesh Chief Sworn In; Parties React *[Delhi Radio]* 55
Finance Minister Reelected to Rajya Sabha *[Delhi Radio]* 56
CPI-M Politburo Expels Nripen Chakraborty *[THE STATESMAN 14 Apr]* 56
Petroleum Ministry Releases 1994-95 Annual Report *[THE TIMES OF INDIA 28 Apr]* 57

Iran

Commander: Military Confrontation With U.S. 'Inevitable' *[Paris AL-MUHARRIR 8 May]* 58
U.S. Strategies, Perry Remarks on Gulf Viewed *[ETTELA'AT 24 May]* 59
Radio: CIA Director Advocates Covert Actions *[Tehran Radio]* 61
Bosnian Official: U.S. 'Hindering' Solution to Crisis *[IRNA]* 62
Commentary: Butrus-Ghali's Plan Helps Bosnian Serbs *[Tehran Radio]* 62
Deal To Trade Iraqi Oil for Moscow Nuclear Technology Seen *[Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA 4 Jun]* 62
Ties, Nuclear Cooperation With PRC Viewed *[Moscow International]* 63
Georgian Ambassador Predicts 'Excellent' Ties *[IRNA]* 63
Velayati on Salman Rushdie, 'Terrorism' *[London THE INDEPENDENT 31 May]* 64
Further on Velayati Remarks *[THE GUARDIAN 6 Jun]* 65
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments on Construction Projects *[IRNA]* 66
President Inaugurates Silicone Production Line *[IRNA]* 66

Pakistan

Daily: U.S. Needs 'Realistic Policy' in Region *[THE FRONTIER POST 4 Jun]* 66
Daily Hails 'Promising Move' on Pressler Amendment *[DAWN 5 Jun]* 67
Editorial Welcomes Reported PRC Missile Test *[NAWA-I-WAQT 2 Jun]* 68
Reportage, Commentary on Situation in Karachi 68
Bhutto Advised To Use Helicopter *[DAWN 31 May]* 68
'Terrorism' Said Linked to Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
Readiness for Dialogue Cited *[Islamabad TV]* 69
Eight Killed; More Than 12 Injured *[Islamabad Radio]* 69
Bhutto's 'Valid Point' Viewed *[THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER 3 Jun]* 69

Sri Lanka

Arms Ban Lifted; Rebel Link To Drug Trade Studied *[AFP]* 70
Indian Request To Extradite Rebel Chief Reported *[AFP]* 71
'Major Offensives' Launched Against Rebels *[LANKAPUVATH]* 71
Rebels Kill 'at Least' 4 Soldiers in Ambush *[AFP]* 71
Bomb Explodes at Airport Parking Lot *[AFP]* 72
Government To Set Up Human Rights Task Force *[Colombo International]* 72

Inter-Arab Affairs

Baghdad Hosts Fourth Arab Popular Conference

Saddam Delivers Address

JN0206091695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Jun 95

[Speech by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to participants in the fourth conference of the Arab popular forces in Baghdad on 1 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] God bless you. God bless the Arabs. Welcome to your Baghdad, Baghdad of the Arabs, in the past, the present, and, God willing, the future. Baghdad takes pride in you, the Arab strugglers who continue the march to serve the interests of your nation, each according to the path he has chosen. We shall all continue to march together to improve the lot of our nation, God willing.

In this, as in similar meetings, one can refer to a very important concept: Who are we? The answer is: We are Arabs. The significance of all the counter plans of the opposite side can be understood from this answer. It is a single nation, and its citizens testify to this fact. They all say we belong to the Arab nation. The way in which they express the condition of the nation in terms of legal, constitutional, cultural, and solidarity concepts, is another issue. However, nobody can deny that the Arab states, the Arab countries — Yemen, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and all the great Arab Maghreb — are Arab.

This fact was not invented by this generation or by any of us. It took thousands of years for this to happen. The evidence can be seen in all the archaeological sites in the Arab homeland and in the old manuscripts throughout the nation, its life, links, migrations, voyages, and interactions.

In addition to this fact, which is not some invention or mere desire, there is another fact; this nation was divided. It was not divided into states and given special characteristics that would help them advance and interact within the concept of a single nation. It was divided in order to be mutilated, fragmented, and weakened. This fact is not acknowledged by Arab strugglers alone, but also by the Arab rulers themselves. When you ask an Arab ruler who are you, he will say I am an Arab. When he deviates from this notion, he himself instigates people against his policy which runs counter to the his statement that he is an Arab.

After much past experience, I believe it is very appropriate for each Arab ruler to contemplate this concept, which has been highlighted in this short and simplified briefing.

When responsibly contemplating this concept, the Arab ruler—if he so wishes—can choose a path that will bring him closer to his people and nation, not temporarily as a tendency or a forced act under special circumstances, but as historic contacts with his people and nation. Such a path will also keep him strong—in the sense of ability—not in terms of the technical description of strength.

When the Arab ruler senses ability, his faith will become deeper. This is because faith in God almighty and carrying out duties are a kind of ability achieved after one has realized his intrinsic powers. At that time, he will be reassured. Tranquility is an important factor for precise forward movement. He will also find himself in need of his people and nation.

Moreover, the Arab ruler will discover that he becomes greater to his people and nation, and they will be in a better position when they interact with him in this spirit. He will also feel that he is a living part of many people around him—and not in a state of weakness among a few people. When there is such a feeling, the nation will avoid many deviations, much weakness, a static position, and the sacrifices and losses resulting from collision.

At that time, and in connection with all this, steps will be organized on the basis of the fact that the future is greater than the present and the past is the profound depth of both the present and future. Also at that time, no step, including its dimensions, will be depicted as being larger than what it is. So, no step will be delayed if it is high time to make it and if movement is necessary.

Brothers: According to my viewpoint as an Arab, this meeting in your Baghdad is part of you and our nation throughout the Arab Homeland. Your meeting carries these meanings, as well as the meanings implied by saying you are Arabs. All Arabs are our brothers and my brothers; in other words, they are part of our nation and they have shown rejection. This also means that their weakness will weaken us and that their ability will strengthen us all.

I say that when they understand this concept, those who doubt they are part of the nation...[pauses]. This is not meant to weaken them but to help them by giving advice to those who need it. We thank those who do not need advice because they have actually already heeded it. What is meant is that we should help, assist, guide, and be ready to listen to those who have doubts. We want them to tell us that their basic strength comes from realizing that there should be no contradiction between their own conduct and what history dictates and the people feel. I am only speaking to those to whom this case applies. When they remove the contradiction and

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ask any of their people: Who are you? He will name the country to which he belongs. To what nation, larger than this country, do you belong? He will say he belongs to the Arab nation.

Hence, any contradiction in the actions of any ruler...[pauses] let us say that the person is from Iraq, for example. Thus, when any Iraqi is asked: Who are you? He will say: I am so and so. Where are you from? He will say: From Iraq. To what nation do you belong? He will say: The Arab nation.

If not translated into policies, these facts will create a conflict between the ruler and his people. Every ruler who, after God almighty, does his best to be as highly capable as possible—this state of high capability after God almighty is embodied by people's will—should realize these facts and everything concerning them. These facts show that the Arab homeland comprises countries and states, and that there are people in these countries. These countries have their special traits. Some of these countries were established thousands of years ago, while others were established hundreds or tens of years ago. At the same time, another fact—not fiction—is that these countries are part of a great nation that, historically, was established as one nation having great and profound values and which has become a beacon for all mankind. The foreigner has partitioned this nation to weaken it. The noble person who is connected to this nation is he who changes its state of affairs for the better.

Brothers, we must help ourselves by pinpointing what is wrong. By highlighting what is wrong, we will help ourselves. First, we should pinpoint what is right, then point out what is wrong, and then begin to work. We try to strengthen the weak. If he refuses, we will deal with him accordingly. We must help those who fear the foreigners so as to enable them to confront the foreigners. In other words, our slogan is not to confront any foreigner. We mean the illegitimate foreign ambitions in our countries and in our nation at the expense of our people and nation. We must look for the factors of strength that would enable the economically weak and the one who submits to the foreigner's wishes to move to another state of affairs.

We must provide collective protection for the one who asks for it provided that he does not turn his weakness into a port for colonialist fleets to strike at the nation's capabilities. We must provide security for the one who asks for it provided that he does not turn into a spy for foreigners in the nation. Only then can we all imnprove our condition. We can all reach a state of tranquility. However, the worst thing for a nation to face is to have the wicked equated with the good, the evil with the pure, the patriot with the traitor, and those who trample the blood of the sons of the nation with those who seek to improve the life of their people and nation.

One cannot just describe the negative points about our nation because every nation has them. A nation which believes it is moving toward progress or power in accordance with its concept of what progress or power should be means that it has many weaknesses. Also, if a nation believes it is still on the road to progress, this means it has weak points.

The basis of all serious capabilities in any nation is whether it is just toward itself. It should ask itself whether it is fair to mankind? When the reply is in the affirmative, the nation will be, after depending on God, in a state of high capability. The nation will be weak if it unjustly treats itself through negligence, carelessness, or weakness; if it does not try to eliminate its weaknesses, point out its strengths and try to improve them to reach a better state; or if it unjustly treats others by usurping their rights.

Despite all that has been said, the Arab nation is not in a state of weakness at all. It is in a state of development, birth, and progress. It is in the process of expressing itself through high humanitarian meanings, and in a state of counter offensive against the forces of evil which oppose it and use against it all means of destruction, thus revealing all the designs they previously used to conceal.

Why have the hostile forces revealed what they used to conceal; all their designs against the nation, designs they used to embellish and hide with slogans and various covers? This means that the enemy's methods have been weakened. This also means that the methods the enemy previously used to cover and embellish to serve its designs can no longer be used to achieve the enemy's objectives. That is why the enemy revealed its true face.

In the great battles the nation has waged, the enemy lost many people whom he had tried to cultivate over the years and on whom he tried to depend whether through friendship, subservience, or any other form. We, as a nation, sacrificed a great deal. However, the struggle and the sacrifices this entailed are not losses but prerequisites for the crossing.

We should earmark weak points in a balanced manner. Before highlighting weak points, we should designate the factors of strength within the nation so we can develop them. We should specify in a balanced and objective manner the factors of capability so that the weak points will be outlined as they really are. Thus, we might know what should be done to eliminate our weak points and develop our strong points to attain a better state.

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Greetings to the Arabs. God willing, the Arabs will fare well so long as you continue to affirm that you are Arabs, Arabs in the sense that they are a people who identify with the nation's values of being one nation, having one stand, and moving in the same direction.

Thus, the Arab nation will fare well. Greetings to the Arabs, greetings to the Arabs. In your country, Iraq, the only thing I have to say is that the Iraqi people know about the feelings you expressed toward your Iraqi people. I believe and I am confident that your people will understand every word you have said and will be loyal to the meanings you have outlined.

As far as we are concerned, we are part of you and part of your people in Iraq. We cannot but be part of the concepts about which you have talked and which we chose as an option for struggle and jihad. For us, these concepts were not merely theoretical slogans. We identified with, and took pride in them.

One of the very important, if not the most important, things in which we take pride is the fact that when we adopted our affiliation we were truthful, and remained truthful with the blessings of God. Power has not changed us. Rather, it added to us the feeling of responsibility. It also made us feel we were true to the pledge we made when we were students—a pledge to an entire people and nation and one which was strengthened within us with the passage of time.

The unity of the Arab nation is our destiny. But, can we achieve this unity? How can the individualities [of, and within, each Arab state] be identified as vital elements within the nation, and how can we build the bigger tent on the basis of these individualities. All this will remain a subject for discussion among the nation's strugglers and honorable people.

The unity of the nation is our destiny. When we talk about, and abide by this concept, we eliminate from our path the contradiction between facts and fabrications, between whims and faith. Consequently, we provide ourselves with a chance for full serenity, strengthened by the feelings of belonging. And, by having faith in God, we can then aspire for a nation greater than any of our states, for a course greater than any of us, and for the greatest results.

God bless you. Welcome. Thank you. God bless you.

Tariq 'Aziz Confers With Delegates

JN0206200195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 2 Jun (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met this evening with the delegations participating in the fourth conference of the Arab Popular Conference in a session of open dialogue.

The deputy prime minister said that the siege imposed on the Iraqi people was issued by the Security Council under the influence of the United States due to known circumstances.

Tariq 'Aziz said that, regrettably, the implementation of the unjust blockade is imposed by the governments, not people, of Arab and Islamic governments. He stressed that the revolutionary and popular movements adopted an honorable stand in support of Iraq and the steadfastness of its lofty people in their confrontation against the forces of evil and aggression.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz spoke about the siege imposed on Iraq, as well as about Iraq's relationship with the Security Council and the UN Special Commission. He also spoke about Arab and international relations and their repercussions on the stand of countries.

Ramadan Meets Arab Jurists Delegation

JN0306192795 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has asserted that international legitimacy and international law make it incumbent on the UN Security Council [UNSC] to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, particularly since Iraq has fulfilled its commitments as enshrined in the relevant UNSC resolutions.

In remarks made during a meeting with a delegation of the Permanent Bureau of the Arab Jurists Union headed by Shabib al-Maliki, secretary general of the union, which is attending the fourth conference of the Arab popular forces, the vice president urged Arab organizations, parties, and unions to expose the double standards and duplicitious policy the United States is pursuing against Iraq.

Ramadan Receives Palestinian Delegation

JN0306193895 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has met with Muhammad Hasan Milhim, head of a Palestinian delegation representing the Palestinians of the occupied Arab territories in the meetings of the fourth conference of the Arab popular forces.

During the meeting, the vice president said that Iraq under leader President Saddam Husayn and its great people will continue the fight to uphold pan-Arab causes and principled positions. He added that the enemies'

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offensives and the spineless people's plots and treason will not change the true history and geography of Palestine. He noted that Palestine and Jerusalem will retain their Arab identity. Furthermore, he reiterated that the Arab masses are capable of defying enemies and thwarting their schemes.

For their part, the Palestinian delegation representing the Palestinians of the occupied territories expressed their pride in the wise leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn, which illuminated the skies of Palestine with the al-Husayn and al-'Abbas missiles. The delegation noted that these missiles rocked the Zionist occupiers' strongholds for the first time in Arab history. The Palestinian delegation added that they will continue to support Iraq and vindicate Arab Palestine.

Conferees Issue Statement

JN0306202495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1909 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA)—In a statement issued at the end of its meetings here this evening, the fourth conference of the Arab popular forces backed President Saddam Husayn's initiative on clearing the Arab atmosphere, realizing Arab solidarity, restoring normal relations among brothers, and ending the foreign presence in the Arabian Gulf region.

The three-day conference began its meetings under the slogan: "Lifting the Blockade Imposed on Iraq is a Liberation of the Arab Will and a Firm Reply to the Imperialist Zionist Challenges."

In their statement, the conferees said Iraq's recognition of Kuwait and its borders in accordance with Resolution 833 paves the way for positive Arab relations and entrenches the security and stability of the region away from foreign umbrellas and the monopolistic theft of Arab oil wealth.

The conferees asked Iran to free the Iraqi prisoners detained in its camps in accordance with the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Security Council Resolution 598, return the Iraqi civilian and military planes that had been agreed should be kept as a trust in Iranian civilian and military airports, and said this will be a necessary introduction for normalizing relations between the two Muslim neighboring countries on the basis of mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs, and confronting the joint dangers of imperialist and Zionist forces.

The conferees urged the Iranian Government to break the U.S. siege imposed on the Iraqi Muslim people.

They asked the Security Council to lift the siege which has been imposed on Iraq for five years, and to start by immediately implementing Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 without new political conditions. They also asked France, Russia, and China to present their draft resolution on implementation of the aforementioned paragraph without delay.

The conferees urged the Arab League and the Arab states to revoke their official siege of Iraq, lift the air embargo they are imposing on Iraq, release its frozen assets, return its sequestered aircraft, resume the work of joint committees with it, and urge their chambers of commerce and industry to cooperate with it and provide it with the urgent humanitarian and civilian requirements of medicines, baby milk, and food in order to alleviate the Iraqi people's suffering.

The conferees denounced the failure of the Arab League secretary general to shoulder his responsibilities toward Iraq, as well as his flagrant bias in favor of the wrongful parties. They argued that he has failed to perform this task, which is at the heart of his responsibilities.

The conferees denounced the malicious U.S.-styled Resolution 986 and all the other disgraceful resolutions passed by the UN Security Council. They also condemned the Washington-London axis and its agents, which aims to perpetuate the sanctions clamped on the Iraqi people.

The conferees also denounced the U.S. [as received] military invasion of Iraqi territory, and called upon the Ankara government to halt its constant violations of Iraq's unity, sovereignty, and independence. They strongly denounced the statements made by Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, in which he called for redrawing the borderline with Iraq to realize expansionist ambitions on Arab territory. They also called for ending the presence of the U.S.- Atlantic force at Turkish bases, and halting all forms of intervention in northern Iraq and interference in Iraq's domestic affairs.

The conferees urged all Arab and Islamic states to end their siege of Iraq, and not to serve as docile tools in the hands of the wrongful United States and the hateful Zionism. They also said that Arab parliaments must work to revoke the Arab embargo clamped on Iraq. They must make an effort toward that end at international parliamentary forums. Moreover, Arab popular committees must send letters and cables, issue statements, and hold direct contacts with parliaments and governments to bring about a revocation of the Iraq sanctions, the conferees said.

Regarding Palestine and developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the conferees urged pan-Arab, national, democratic, and Islamic forces in the Arab homeland to intensify their efforts and struggle to defend the Arabism of Palestine, restore Arab sovereignty over it,

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support the struggle of the Palestinian people to attain their goals of repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on all their national soil with holy Jerusalem as its capital. They also urged all forces to support the struggle of the Arab people to restore full Arab sovereignty over southern Lebanon and all the Arab territories occupied in 1967; to extend all forms of support to the pan-Arab, national, democratic, and Islamic forces that are opposed to the capitulatory solutions in order to strengthen the unity of the Palestinian people, the PLO, and Arab right to use every militant way, including armed struggle as a legitimate right to resist occupation and aggression; and to save the city of holy Jerusalem and the city of Hebron.

Regarding fraternal Libya, the conference denounced and condemned the unjust blockade imposed on the Libyan Arab people and urged all the popular forces in the Arab homeland to work to break the blockade. The conference viewed Security Council resolutions imposing the blockade as unfair.

The conferees hailed the courageous measures adopted by the Libyan leadership to lift the blockade by sending its passenger planes from the al-Jamahiriyah airports to the holy lands [Mecca and Medina]. They urged the Arab masses everywhere to further their solidarity and coordination in order to abort the U.S. imperialist conspiracy against the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Regarding Sudan, the conferees followed with great concern the plots being concocted in the Sudanese arena against the unity of its soil and stressed their full support for unity. They also called for the need to continue dialogue and cooperation between all political parties in a democratic spirit in order to achieve a peaceful solution to all its problems.

The conferees blessed the victory scored by unionist forces in Yemen, as well as the entrenchment of unity as an embodiment of the will of the Yemeni people and as a victory for the comprehensive Arab unity. They also denounced any foreign attempt to interfere in the domestic affairs of the unified state.

The conferees expressed support for fraternal Morocco's demand to restore Cebta and Melilla and al-Ja'fariyah islands [name as transliterated], and called for shedding light on this issue and activating it in a manner that helps safeguard the pan-Arab and historical rights in this part of the Arab homeland.

On the issue of deportees from Kuwait, the conferees said the Arab and international silence on the subject of Kuwaiti citizens deported from their homeland as a result of official repressive practices and the outright violations by the ruling authorities in Kuwait of the basic human rights and international charters emphasize the double standard policy followed by the Western countries, led by the United States.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat's Plane Reportedly Makes Emergency Landing

NC0606052695 Paris AFP in English 2134 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, June 5 (AFP)—A plane carrying PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat was forced to make an emergency landing in Yemen last week because of a technical fault, the Palestinian weekly Al-Hayah al-Jadidah reported Monday [5 June].

'Arafat was travelling from Saudi Arabia to Yemen for a meeting with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih when wheel problems forced his plane into an emergency landing, the paper said.

There was no immediate confirmation from the Palestinian Authority.

Al-Hayah al-Jadidah is considered close to the self-rule authority and its editor Nabil 'Amr was the PLO's representative to the former Soviet Union.

'Arafat's 'Unexpected' Visit to Cairo Reported

JN0506124795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Jun 95

[Report by Hanadi al-Imam in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat's unexpected arrival in Cairo has raised many questions as to the purpose of this visit. Our Palestinian sources told us that the visit deals with reports that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has actually initiated measures to regroup the Palestinian forces on its territory prior to transferring them to the National Authority [NA] areas through Egypt by sea. These forces are being regrouped in Banghazi.

The implementation of the Libyan decision in this unexpected manner causes difficulties for the NA which has not made preparations to welcome these forces and provide them with housing. Another problem facing the NA is the question of not knowing what fate awaits the families of these forces. The NA head will discuss all these problems with the Egyptian president, and whether Mubarak can intervene with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to avoid these problems or discuss how to settle them.

The said sources also told us that President Yasir 'Arafat will discuss the possibility of holding the Fatah

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Revolutionary Council meeting, whose date has not been set as yet, in Cairo.

On another level, Israel has agreed to hand over all civil administration departments to the NA and President Yasir 'Arafat will inform the Egyptian president of this decision.

Talks With Mubarak Detailed

JN0506141195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Jun 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat returned to the homeland this afternoon after a brief visit to the Egyptian capital, Cairo, during which he met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Upon his return to Gaza, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, who attended the meeting, said that President 'Arafat had briefed Egyptian President Mubarak on the latest developments in negotiations with the Israeli side, particularly the issue of the redeployment of the Israeli occupation forces outside residential areas in the West Bank; on the Palestinian legislative elections; and on the extent of Israel's determination to complete negotiations on the redeployment and the upcoming legislative elections by the 1 July deadline.

Abu-Rudaynah stressed that the two presidents agreed to hold intensive contacts this month. He pointed out that the two presidents' meeting was part of Palestinian-Egyptian policy of consultations. He added that they also tackled the upcoming tour of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and assessed the peace process.

It is noteworthy that President Yasir 'Arafat left for Cairo this morning. He will meet with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Wednesday [7 June] and with U.S. Secretary of State Christopher in Jericho on Sunday to discuss the latest developments in the peace process.

Al-Husayni on 'Arafat-Mubarak Talks, 1 Jul Date

NC0606072495 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 6 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, Palestinian Authority's head of liaison with Israel and official in charge of Jerusalem affairs, in Jerusalem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Jundi] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] The meeting between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat yesterday was a link in the chain of efforts to support the Palestinian cause and confront Israel's schemes to Judaize Jerusalem. How important do you think the meeting was?

[Al-Husayni] The meeting came after Israel's decision [to confiscate Arab lands in Jerusalem]. When Israel later suspended the decision, the Arab minisummit, at Egypt's initiative, was suspended. But this subject must be followed up. It is very possible for Israel to reactivate the confiscation decision or to build settlements in other places. It is necessary for us to watch this and remain fully prepared to take measures to prevent Israel from doing this. Such a meeting [between Mubarak and 'Arafat] is, therefore, very important.

[Al-Jundi] So you are calling for continued preparations for an Arab summit to pressure Israel to rescind the confiscation decision, not only to suspend it?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. The confiscation decision should be annulled. Not only that, but Israel should abstain from any activity on the ground, including work on confiscated land in [word indistinct].

[Al-Jundi] Mr. al-Husayni, what is your comment on the suspension of the confiscation decision while Israel continues to show intransigence regarding the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles?

[Al-Husayni] Israel is obviously not concerned, or not serious, about the implementation of this agreement. It seems Israel is trying to postpone everything until after its elections. This, in fact, will be (?disastrous) for the peace process and the region. Regarding the suspension decision, it was a result of much pressure, notably the pressure applied by the Arab parties in the Israeli Knesset.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, do you think that the 1 July date [the deadline for an agreement on the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank and the date of Palestinian legislative elections] will be respected, given the current Israeli position?

[Al-Husayni] The remaining time is, in fact, sufficient for an agreement to be reached, but the Israeli offers made to us show that Israel is either not serious about reaching an agreement or very serious in liquidating the agreement and ending the peace process. [passage omitted]

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'Abd-Rubbuh on Need for Unity, Christopher Tour

MM0606103395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Jun 95 p 3

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of information and culture in the Palestinian Authority, by unidentified correspondent in Tunis; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] How would you assess the results achieved by the Executive Committee at its recent meetings in Tunis?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The meetings dealt with the sensitive and major issues, especially the agreed date for reaching an agreement on redeployment in order to ensure free and universal Palestinian elections. I believe that no participants have confidence in Israel's commitment. Discussions focused on what should be done in the light of that.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Did the Executive Committee's meetings draw up options for the next stage if Israel does not honor the 1 July date?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I said clearly that a possible heated political and popular confrontation is ahead of us. And I believe that all Palestinian national forces, including the forces participating in the authority and those outside it, should prepare themselves for this possibility. Because Israel has not left any other way out but this one. (Israeli Foreign Minister) Shim'on Peres' meetings with President Yasir 'Arafat and some of the rounds of negotiation were merely aimed at letting off steam and appraisal.

I believe that the principal role is the Palestinian national forces' role. We cannot request from the Arabs more than we request from ourselves. We must face the bitter realities as they are. And we must rectify the situation in order to restore Palestinian national unity and the cohesion of Palestinian policy. And we should call on the Arab brothers in a realistic and balanced manner to participate in this responsibility without any exaggeration, but also without playing down the dark picture and the difficulty of the current situation.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] But these are not alternatives.

['Abd-Rabbuh] On the contrary, my alternatives are very clear. And I have no other details to add. Maybe we will talk in more detail within the framework of a responsible Palestinian national dialogue, but on the basis of the main outlines of which I have spoken.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Do you believe that Palestinian opposition forces are now willing to shoulder the Oslo agreement's responsibilities?

['Abd-Rabbuh] The real problem is that all the Palestinian forces without exception must have a unified role. And there is an urgent need for a serious dialogue that includes all these forces. I believe that any split in Palestinian ranks now would be a fabricated split lacking any objective foundation.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Israel hinted recently that the 1 July date will be delayed until November. What is your opinion?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Israel is currently trying hard to freeze the Palestinian track.in the hope of compensating for this with some progress on the Syrian track to conceal its abandonment of the Oslo agreement.

I think the reply to this is very simple: We can reach an integrated agreement on 1 July on redeployment, holding the elections, and transferring powers in the West Bank to the National Authority, provided that that is implemented on the ground for two months. But the important thing is to see the end of the road clearly within an integrated framework, hence setting a date for universal elections, which should be held before the end of the year.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What do you expect from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming tour of the region?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I am not confident that the U.S. secretary of state will bring anything new.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What about Kohl's visit to Jericho this week?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Our relations with Germany are good and positive. They fall within the framework of our advanced European relations.

Minister Notes 'Concern' as 1 Jul Deadline Nears

MM0506153895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jun 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Labor Minister in National Authority Samir Ghawshah Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Palestinian People Awaiting With Anticipation Agreement's Implementation at Beginning of July"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Samir Ghawshah, labor minister in the Palestinian National Authority, has said that there is profound anticipation and concern among the Palestinian people vis-a-vis the date 1 July. Because what is going to happen on this date will produce political, economic, and social results not only in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, but also in the Middle East region as a

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whole. He added that the current round of negotiations is very important as regards this date, on which an agreement is supposed to be reached on the Israeli Army's redeployment in the West Bank and on the elections.

Ghawshah, secretary general of the Popular Struggle Front, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he does not expect a miracle to happen on the date in question. However, this date, which the Palestinian public views seriously and with concern, will be a factor for determining conditions in the region. In this connection he pointed out that Palestinian patience has limits. And that, if the negotiations continue to revolve in a vicious circle, and if the fundamental issues being negotiated remain outstanding, no one can blame the Palestinians for the explosion of conditions in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Ghawshah said that Israel still has not taken a decisive or final position on land confiscations. In fact it has kept the matter open in two conflicting directions: by reimplementing the confiscation decision and by keeping the matter suspended for a long time — which confirms that the Israeli Government is not serious in ending the policy of confiscating lands and stepping up the settlement process. In this context Ghawshah warned that the Jerusalem issue represents the biggest obstacle which could explode the peace process.

Ghawshah also warned that the worsening of economic and social conditions in the Strip and the West Bank — as a result of the blockade and closure policy pursued by Israel, and as a result of the donor states' failure to fulfill their promises — could lead to exploding conditions at the Palestinian people's level. [passage omitted]

Ghawshah said that the recent U.S. veto in the Security Council showed that the United States has a weak position isolated from international legitimacy and world public opinion.

Ghawshah stressed that there is no room for backtracking, and that matters cannot return to square one as though nothing had happened. He pointed out that new realities have materialized between the Palestinians and the Israelis, and that there can be no backtracking on these realities. Israel cannot cancel any of what has taken place so far.

Asked whether the Palestinian Authority's "government" is united and harmonious vis-a-vis the policy pursued by President Yasir 'Arafat as head of this authority, Dr. Samir Ghawshah said: "Our agreement to continue to shoulder responsibility in the National Authority places on our shoulder a universal and collective responsibility, regardless of the individual positions opposed to some policies and shortcomings in the performance. So anyone who does not want to shoulder this responsibility must announce his unwillingness to shoulder it and hence resign from his post, informing the masses of his position." [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi: Palestinian State 'Farther Than Ever'

TA0606093795 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jun 95 p A14

[Report by Yosef Elgazi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "A Palestinian state is farther than ever today; the interim arrangement is not leading to an end to the occupation," Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chairman of the Red Crescent in Gaza and a leading Palestinian figure, stated yesterday in an address at a symposium organized by Tel Aviv University's forum of lecturers and students entitled "We Say Shalom But There Is No Peace: 28 Years of Occupation."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are undergoing a process of cantonization, and he warned against the process spreading to the West Bank. According to him, it is not Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] that is blocking the peace process but Israel. He added: "We are in a critical situation in which use of force by Israel could lead to a resumption of the bloodshed. There is no chance that the partition of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank into isolated cantons under Israeli sovereignty will be accepted by the majority of the Palestinian population."

"The test of Israel's intentions," he continued, "lies in the removal of the settlements. That has not happened yet. Israel takes advantage of its superior force to establish facts and dictate to the Palestinians conditions that will not lead to peace."

'Abd-al-Shafi did not mince words when talking about the Palestinian Authority [PA] either. He pointed to what he termed recurrent violations of basic human rights by the PA. "There is urgent need for the democratization of political life in Palestinian society and for long-term forbearance, because the end of the occupation cannot be seen in the offing," he declared. [passage omitted]

Al-Tibi on Political Aspirations, Land Seizures

TA0306161795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 3 Jun 95

[Interview with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi by Miryam Herschlag at al-Tibi's office in East Jerusalem; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [al-Tibi] I think that the Arab population should participate in the decisionmaking

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process of the State of Israel after the next election much more than these days. We can decide who will be the next prime minister of Israel and we will decide who will not be the next prime minister of the State of Israel, because we are part of the State of Israel, we are part of the political game, and we are willing to integrate and to be part of the decisionmaking process.

[Herschlag] What are the most important goals? Are they on the level of the diplomatic process, the peace process, or are they about internal rights and equality for Arabs within Israeli society?

[Al-Tibi] Both. I think that the most two cardinal issues that always the Arab sector is dealing with during the last 40 years is the political, diplomatic issue — that is to say, the demand of constructing an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel and the equality of rights inside the State of Israel. In the level of these two demands, all of the parties are asking for that. The issue of practice will differentiate between political streams and parties and movements inside Israel. I am disappointed and a vast majority of the Arab sector is disappointed that we did not use our specific weight in the coalition as the 61st member of the Knesset who enabled the Labor Party to lead this country in order to achieve more and more.

[Herschlag] That role as No. 61, the pivotal vote that has been so crucial, and yet being outside the coalition, is this a role that you expect to continue? I ask that because it seems that there is tremendous ambivalence on the part of the Labor Party itself when it comes to accepting that kind of help.

[Al-Tibi] Yes, you are right. There are some hints of discrimination even inside the Labor Party and not only in the right wing when coming to ask for the assistance and the help of the Arab MK's [Knesset members]. We do not think that we can dramatically change the way of thinking of people inside their hearts, but we can impose a political status if we are No. 61, and we did not do it in the last time, I am sorry to say so.

[Herschlag] Well, of course, there was a recent, very dramatic victory to the Arab parties along these lines when it came to the land expropriations in Jerusalem.

[Al-Tibi] It is a strong evidence supporting my say in the last three years that the Arab mandates can do more — the Arab MK's — and they are not. For the first time when they are moving toward no-confidence motion against this government on an essential issue, they and especially HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] have achieved some tangible achievement. We also have to thank the Likud for its dramatic change in the style of action inside the parliament.

[Herschlag] Even among Israeli Jewish supporters of the Labor Party, you are identified very closely with Yasir 'Arafat, and Yasir 'Arafat, while a negotiating partner, is not necessarily perceived as a good friend of Israel. How do you think that is going to go over: Ahmad al-Tibi, 'Arafat's adviser, in the Knesset of Israel?

[Al-Tibi] I think that part of the Labor Party supporters are right-wing supporters ideologically. Our activity should also be aimed toward this: to try and convince them that Yasir 'Arafat, who was the enemy of Israel and who is gradually trying — Yasir 'Arafat from his side and the government of Israel from the other side — to coexist peacefully. I think that this process should also lead to a desensitization of ideas, of prejudices existing in the two communities.

[Herschlag] What does Yasir 'Arafat have to say about your ambitions to run for the Knesset?

[Al-Tibi] I did not ask him, and I think the PLO should not also even interfere or intervene in the internal issues of the Israeli Arab community. I am sure that he will bless every decision that I will take in my personal future. I think that my next mission should be to improve the status of the Israeli Arab community inside Israel.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1500 GMT on 3 June carries another recorded passage from the same interview. When asked why the Palestinians have recently claimed to own 70 percent of West Jerusalem, al-Tibi replies: "There is more and more steps taken by the municipality of Olmert, who is the mayor of West Jerusalem. He is not the mayor of East Jerusalem; he is the mayor of West Jerusalem who is trying, together with the general custodian, to kick Palestinians out of their houses in Silwan and other neighborhoods in East Jerusalem, confiscating lands...[pauses] requests for properties in East Jerusalem and other parts of the Palestinian land. Israel should know that the Palestinians can do the same. It is a bilateral game. We are talking about properties, not about political sovereignty in West Jerusalem. I think that the issue of the status of Jerusalem should remain postponed till the final status negotiations because of its sensitivity and complexity."]

Jordanian Envoy Arrives in Jericho En Route to Gaza

JN0506130695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1110 GMT 5 Jun 95

[Report by Ahmad Zaki from the "Today's Events" feature]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ziyad al-Majali, Jordan's representative to the Palestinian National Authority, arrived in Jericho today en route to Gaza, where he will assume

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his post as Jordan's representative. Al-Majali was welcomed at the Jordan River, the dividing line between the Palestinian and Jordanian territories, by Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il Abu-Jabr, commander of the National Security Forces in Jericho; Ramzi Khuri, chief of President Yasir 'Arafat's office in Gaza; and Sami Musallam, chief of the president's office in Jericho.

Predicts Better Relations

JN0506142895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ziyad al-Majali, representative of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], arrived in Jericho today.

In an arrival statement to the Voice of Palestine in Jericho, al-Majali said:

[Begin al-Majali recording] In fact, my arrival on 5 June [anniversary of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war] is a coincidence. However, my personal assessment and feeling is that — and I am saying this about 5 June for the first time — it is a nice coincidence because I am now entering Palestinian territory controlled by the PNA.

In other words, this territory is controlled by the Palestinian people. This shows that the Palestinian people's steadfastness and insistence throughout the past 28 years and their constant work to obtain their rights have ultimately borne fruit. God willing, their efforts will bear more fruit until they obtain all their rights and achieve their aspirations in terms of establishing their Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is governed by the facts of history, geography, and kinship. We can only expect future good relations which will benefit both sides. In the near future, God willing, and with the progress of negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track, we expect the removal of all obstacles facing the agreements signed between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, so tangible results will be achieved on the ground, which will be felt by citizens on both sides. [end recording]

Ministry Issues Statement on Hebron Incident

JN0306144695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation authorities will close the holy Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron for Palestinian worshipers as of this evening and until next Monday morning.

The occupation authorities decided to allow only the settlers to pray at the mosque on the pretext of celebrating Jewish festivals.

The citizens of Hebron declared a public mourning to protest the martyrdom of Hamid Yarmur, who was martyred yesterday when the occupation forces demolished with rockets the house in which he was staying.

Our correspondent in Hebron said the Israeli occupation authorities are still holding the body of martyr Yarmur.

The Information Ministry issued a statement today condemning the murder of martyr Hamid Yarmur and the demolition of citizen 'Umar Abu-'Ayshah's house in Hebron on the pretext that martyr Yarmur was hiding in the house while he was being chased.

The ministry stressed that summary execution is a practice that creates a public opinion that has no confidence in the peace process. It said this execution is a blatant violation of Palestinian human rights and the agreements concluded between the PLO and the Israeli Government. The statement asked the Israeli Government to reconsider this policy and stop all forms of settlements and confiscation, and to abide by the agreements it signed with the PLO.

Hamas Accuses Israeli Paper of Distorting Yasin Remarks

MM0506155895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jun 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Hamas: Shaykh Yasin's Words Distorted by Israeli Press"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) yesterday questioned the authenticity of the statements attributed by the Israeli paper MA'ARIV to Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the jailed founder of the movement, in an interview in prison in which he said that he saw an opportunity for a temporary peace with Israel.

A statement issued by Hamas yesterday, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH, said that the Israeli media often "exploit press, radio, and television interviews with the movement's symbols in Zionist detention camps to distort Hamas' position through omissions, partial quotations, or falsification of such interviews."

It said that the interview published by MA'ARIV last Friday "was just one of these repeated Zionist attempts to distort the words of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin."

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APF Central Command Holds Meeting

JN0306180995 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Command of the Alliance of Political Forces [APF] today held a meeting at the headquarters of the Department of Information and Central Guidance of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command. Heads of the forces in the alliance and national struggler Bassam al-Shak'ah, the secretary of the Palestinian Grouping, attended the meeting aimed at completing the discussion of agenda topics, which look into the relationship between the APF and the Palestinian Grouping on the road to integration and escalation of struggle to confront the dangers facing our Palestinian cause.

Palestinian TV To Start First Broadcasts in W. Bank

NC0406191995 Paris AFP in English 1423 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ramallah, West Bank, June 4 (AFP) — Palestinian television is to start its first broadcasts to the occupied West Bank on June 15, station director Radwan Abu-'Ayyash said Sunday [4 June].

The programmes will be sent via a transmitter in Ramallah, after Israel and the PLO agreed last week that a television station could be set up in the town, north of Jerusalem.

A building to house the station has already been rented, 'Ayyash added.

The station's maiden broadcast will be a special programme marking the meeting set for Wednesday between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in the self-rule enclave of Jericho.

'Ayyash said the two sides had also agreed on what frequency would be used by the Ramallah transmitter as well as other transmitters on the West Bank.

Israel and the PLO, however, have not completely agreed on all aspects of telecommunications, including what wavelengths the Palestinian police walkie-talkies should be set to, he added.

Until now Palestinian television has only been received in a band of a few kilometres (miles) in the autonomous Gaza Strip broadcast from a mobile van.

Voice of Palestine radio has been broadcasting since the summer from its Ramallah transmitter and can be heard in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Secret' Palestinian-Israeli Talks Said Held in Rome

NC0506114595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 5 Jun [MENA]—A MENA correspondent in Tunis has learned that Israel and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] are currently holding secret negotiations in Rome similar to those held in Oslo. The Oslo talks resulted in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles, which was signed on 13 September 1993. The Rome negotiations seek an agreement on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the populated areas of the West Bank and the holding of Palestinian legislative elections before 1 July.

Our correspondent learned that the Palestinian delegation to these talks is led by Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu 'Ala', minister of economy and foreign trade with the PNA and the man who led the Palestinian delegation to the Oslo negotiations. The Rome talks are supervised by Faysal al-Husayni, the PNA official in charge of Jerusalem affairs.

Quray' and al-Husayni were absent from the Fatah Central Committee meetings held in Tunis Thursday [1 June] and Friday because they were busy with those talks.

It has also been learned that behind-the-scenes secret negotiations are being held between a Palestinian delegation led by Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya and an Israeli delegation led by General Uzi Dayan to prepare a detailed plan for the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from the West Bank.

While these secret Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are going on, the two sides decided to continue their public talks in Cairo as the two sides did in Washington in 1993, with the Palestinian delegation headed by Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government of the PNA, and the Israeli side by Yo'el Singer.

A high-ranking Palestinian source said that there are other quite, behind-the-scene channels between the Palestinians and the Israelis designed to reach an agreement before the first of July.

It has also been learned that the Palestinians and the Israelis are holding secret talks in Sweden on a final solution to the Palestine problem, especially the future of Palestinian territory, Jerusalem, and the refugee problem.

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More on 'Secret' Talks

MM0506142495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Husayn Hijazi: "Secret Palestinian-Israeli Negotiations on Redeployment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza — Informed Palestinian sources have revealed to AL-HAYAH that secret negotiations have been going on out of sight for some time between Israel and the Palestinian Authority [PA] with a view to reaching agreement on the redeployment of the Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank to pave the way for Palestinian elections.

The sources said that these negotiations have now "reached a climax" and that discussions are focused on draft maps identifying the areas from which Israel would withdraw and the roads linking the Palestinian areas, and also on other security and logistical issues.

These revelations come after the remarks made by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at the International Institute of Strategic Studies in Washington a few days ago in which he referred, for the first time, to secret negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on a map for new ring roads in the West Bank to enable Israel to redeploy. He said that the Palestinians were wrong to think that they would only get Gaza "because we are now trying to follow that (Gaza) with the West Bank."

AL-HAYAH had, about two months ago, quoted Palestinian sources in Gaza as saying that the negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis were proceeding on two parallel levels, one secret and one public, the first dealing with difficult issues and the second dealing with the election issue.

The Palestinian sources declined to disclose the names of the Palestinian figures participating in the secret negotiations, which are being held in Israel, but hinted that they were a part of the team that negotiated with the Israelis in Oslo. They quoted Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat as saying that he is satisfied with the progress of these negotiations.

The sources said that Israeli withdrawal from Janin is now the most important issue on which the two sides are trying to reach agreement. They stressed that the point of disagreement between the two sides is defining the context in which the withdrawal would take place. The Palestinians insist on having a corridor linking Janin and Jericho and want the withdrawal to include the outskirts of the city whereas the Israelis are proposing withdrawal just from the city itself, a matter which, according to the same sources, infuriated the Palestinian president and took the talks to crisis point.

On the discussion of maps, the sources said that the Israeli side is trying to confine the redeployment operation to just withdrawal from the populated areas whereas the Palestinian side is raising the question of geographical unity as a framework for that operation, in addition to wanting a timetable.

The sources said that, in their view, these differences were surmountable and that the general atmosphere of the talks and relations between the two sides are improving, compared to the previous difficult period. They do not deny that one of the reasons for that is the successes scored by the Palestinian Authority in controlling the internal situation, particularly the recent apparent decline of Hamas' strength. Another reason, they said, is "the major and decisive" development on the Syrian-Israeli track.

Palestinian-Israeli Talks To Resume in Cairo

JN0506124295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the transfer of powers to the National Authority will be resumed in Cairo tomorrow, Tuesday [6 June].

The Palestinian delegation to these talks will be headed by Civilian Affairs Minister Jamil al-Tarifi, whereas the Israeli side will be headed by Aaron Shahor, coordinator of Israeli activities in the Palestinian territories.

PA's al-Tarifi Arrives for Talks

NC0606104295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—Jamil al-Tarifi, minister of civilian affairs in the Palestinian Authority [PA], arrived in Cairo at noon today on a visit of several days. During the visit, al-Tarifi will head the Palestinian side to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, slated to begin in Cairo later today.

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Algeria

Hamrouche, Ben Hamouda Set To Contest Presidency

MM0506131995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Jun 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Hamrouche, Ben Hamouda Head Candidates; Algerian Elections in November, Pressure on Zeroual To Run in Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — High-ranking French sources said yesterday that Algerian President Liamine Zeroual does not intend to run for the presidential elections in Algeria, scheduled for the first week of November.

According to the sources, President Zeroual has said that he intends to put himself above politics to ensure the elections' integrity.

The sources said that two well-known Algerian figures have told their friends of their intention to contest the presidential elections if President Zeroual does not run for office. The first figure is former Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche, who is believed to be supported by forces from the state institution and the National Liberation Front party, even though the Front announced through its leader, Abdelhamid Mehri, its belief that holding the presidential elections in current conditions could lead to kindling the crisis. As for the other figure expected to join the presidential race, it is Abdelhak Ben Hamouda, head of the Trade Federation, who played a major role in the negotiations that helped the Algerian economy to show signs of recovery recently. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Meets UN Security Council Group

LD0506225395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2130 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As you know, a delegation of the UN Security Council is now in Algiers after visiting Rabat. It is on the second leg of a tour in the region aiming to give a new boost to the settlement of the Saharan issue.

The delegation was received by Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri, who spoke to Ghania el-Sherif about the contents of their talks:

[Begin Dembri recording] We looked at the current conditions prevailing in the framework of the implementation of the settlement plan. There are objective difficulties which cannot be ignored and which affect the issues of identification, the problems of billeting, that is, a whole technical system which marks time. We expressed our concern over that and also at the fact that many things concerning those issues which should be settled with a compromise have not yet been settled.

As far as we are concerned, we obviously reiterated our total and entire availability for the support — resettlement plan — and at the end of the day for it to serve peace and stability in the region, and for it to ward off any potential risk of clashes by making possible an upright and regular referendum by the people of Western Sahara. [end recording]

The foreign minister now talks about the mandate of that particular mission:

[Begin Dembri recording] First of all, it is going to listen to the two sides, as I have told you — the Saharans and the Moroccans. It has listened to our opinion. The mission participants will listen to the views of the Mauritanians. It has had an opportunity to visit Morocco. The mission will also visit the Saharans in those territories that have been freed.

The mission will then report to the UN Security Council, and I think... [pauses] we hope things will have a positive outcome. [end recording]

Government, HAMAS Meet, Exchange Similar Views

LD0506182695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president's office today released a statement concerning the recent meeting held the day before yesterday between representatives of the president's office and a delegation of the HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement] chaired by Mr. Mahfoud Nahna. The statement said the meeting was marked by frank dialogue and was an occasion for the HAMAS movement delegation to elaborate on the proposals it had put in writing to the president's office under the heading: Project for National Reconciliation. The statement further said the meeting permitted an exchange of similar views, especially concerning the unacceptability of resorting to violence and the need for finding a solution to the national crisis by the Algerians themselves and in Algeria. Regarding the proposal of the HAMAS movement for setting up a committee of wise men consisting of non-partisan national public figures, the representatives of the president's office promised to the HAMAS movement delegation that its proposal would be studied and urged HAMAS to table the proposal before the other political parties.

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Minister Inaugurates Local Radio Station

LD0406134995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mr. Lamine Bechichi, minister of communications, this morning inaugurated Adrar local radio station [750 miles southeast of Algiers]. [passage omitted] Our reporter at Adrar radio station reports:

[Correspondent] Adrar radio station, which uses mediumwave to transmit programs to Reggane, Timimoun, Aoulef, and Adrar, was created in implementation of the government's program for the greater south, which urged the need for boosting local radio stations throughout the country in a bid to end the isolation of citizens in many parts of the vast southern regions of the country. [passage omitted]

More Local Stations Planned

LD0506103395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We will start this bulletin with a birth, that of a local radio in Adrar, opened by Lamine Bechichi, minister of communications. It is the third local radio to be established in the space of five months. Other stations are to come into being this year, such as Radio Bejaia and Radio Illizi.

Republican National Alliance Declaration

95AF0096A Algiers LIBERTE in French 7 May 95 p 2

[Declaration by the Republican National Alliance signed by Sidi Fredj; dated 5 May]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algeria, under attack by diverse forms of subversion, is threatened. And our conscience is stirred.

Most Algerians, worried and wondering what will become of the nation, are alienated from the current political landscape.

That is what happens when certain individuals elevate terrorism to the status of a "jihad" [holy war] or try to legitimize it as the expression of a resistance movement or armed opposition.

It is what happens when such individuals, doubting Algeria's strength, openly solicit external intervention.

Never in the modern history of Algeria has there been such a blatant political perversion.

Never has there been such a flagrant inversion of values, evincing such utter contempt for the sovereignty of the state and the dignity of the nation.

This crumbling of moral reference points to the culpability of a certain political class in aggravating the crisis. It shows the dangers and limits of an unprincipled approach to solving our most critical problems. The improvised solutions—the inconsistent patchwork initiatives, the string of one meaningless "consensus" after another—all leave a disillusioned citizenry apathetic.

Therefore many patriots believe that today we face both the moral imperative and the political necessity to organize. Not just to add a new acronym to the already long list of political parties, but to respond to the anguished hopes of Algerian society.

It is urgent to begin the work of national recovery for which the country so desperately yearns, but in order to prosper, such an undertaking will require clear objectives and resolute action.

The absence of a coherent strategy at the national level has shown itself more than once to be as dangerous as the terrorist threat. The continued absence of any coherent agenda for society contributes to the disarray and demobilization of energies.

At this advanced stage of the crisis, the nation as a whole must act. Instinctively rejecting terrorism and retrogression, it must and will uncover the conspiracies that threaten its unity and identity, its irrepressible commitment to progress and modernity. Initiatives in this direction are possible.

One such initiative is to rally together those patriots committed to working for a modern and democratic Algeria—an Algeria which, rejecting fundamentalism, adventuristic opposition, and national abdication, will recover its stability and equilibrium and deliver religion from the clutches of imposture.

A careful study of the situation clearly discloses three lines of action:

1. Fundamentalist subversion must be stemmed and reduced, or it will lead to the country's utter destruction.

2. To reestablish its credibility and authority within and outside our borders, the Algerian state must commit itself to far-reaching reforms both in its structure and in the way it operates.

3. In the face of a fundamentalism determined to impose its rule by terror and a regime that has never been able to build a base of support in the country, despite the readiness of the people to extend support, it is of vital and crucial importance that we take the path of democracy and nationalism. That path, mobilizing the nation against the forces of obscurantism and their agents, holds out a hope for society that

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responds to the aspirations of the people and to the imperatives of our time. The regime crisis that led to the adoption of the 1989 constitution inaugurating political party pluralism and freedom of expression was also carrying fundamentalism in its womb. As a result of fundamentalism's violent erruption onto the political scene, the democratic opening was stillborn.

With the loss of social consensus, Algeria has become a hotbed of terrorism. The widening of the moral gap between a feckless regime and a rapidly changing society could only deepen and exacerbate all contradictions. One consequence was an increase in the number of "misfits," especially among our youth—people who saw any prospect for improvement of their lot vanish before their eyes. These factors, which the fundamentalists exploited, were only exacerbated by all the postponements and questionable accommodations—amounting, almost, to overt complicity—of a regime more adept at manipulation and petty intrigue than at making the important strategic decisions. Fundamentalism could never have threatened national security if the state had been resolute and understood the stakes. Lastly, we must not minimize the influence of the international environment at that juncture, when the Afghanistan affair—the final spasm of the Cold War—was transformed into a catalyst for fundamentalist violence. In such a context, Algeria, because of its temporary fragility and its value as an example, became a choice target.

We must respond to psychological warfare being waged against the country not by taking refuge in stale, wooden propaganda but by returning to the truth and systematically airing it. The task of putting truth back into our political life is all the more critical owing to the glaring absence of real communication from the regime.

Only in this way can a number of disastrous ambiguities be resolved.

The state cannot remain neutral in the struggle between the republican ideal it embodies and a fundamentalism that aims for its annihilation.

The Algerian state, resurrected in the travail of its struggle for liberation, is an unique historical triumph. The fundamental documents of the Revolution—the three successive constitutions adopted by an independent Algeria in 1963, 1976, and 1989—define its form and articulate its vocation. It is a republican state, a modern state, guaranteeing democratic freedoms and subscribing to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The struggle against terrorism must not distract us from seeing that fundamentalism is its ideological womb.

The interruption of the electoral process had a precise and unequivocal meaning: rejection, in its very principle, of fundamentalism as a totalitarian and theocratic system opposed to the idea of a republican state and its constitutional foundations. It was on this basis that the state justified its subsequent actions. Any retreat from this rationale would be tantamount to betrayal and render futile the immense sacrifices that have been made by our security forces.

What the state brings to bear against terrorist violence is legal force, one of its important constitutional prerogatives.

To lump security operations into the same category with terrorist machinations, or condemn both as if they were the same, is to degrade the state to a status equivalent to that of the factions now mobilized against it. This fallacious parallelism is the result of moral blindness. Those who resort to this stratagem, to protect and excuse the terrorists, are in reality working for the disintegration of civic and national values.

Among the ideas and myths that constitute today's conventional wisdom are some that have shown themselves to be suicidal.

One of these has been to separate off a so-called Westernized fringe from the rest of the population—and this on the basis of a warped and superficial notion of identity. Pushed to its extreme limits, this ideological discrimination has given birth to a monstrous and sanguinary enterprise: the systematic liquidation of Algeria's intelligentsia. By committing itself cold-bloodedly to this irrational and sterile undertaking, fundamentalist subversion has exposed its political blindness and its antinational outlook. Those who denounce Westernization are in fact the accomplices, witting or unwitting, of one particular revanchist Western power that longs for a return to its erstwhile colonial hegemony.

Moreover, by their indiscriminate attacks on officers of the law, mujahidin, women, ordinary citizens, workers, elites, institutions, basic infrastructure, and even visiting foreigners, the terrorists have done unpardonable injury to Algeria and its image in the world.

It is imperative to reestablish the distinction between state and government.

The former is permanent, while the latter is temporary in character. The government should not be immune to criticism—indeed, it is the role of a democratic opposition to encourage and channel it. However, this function is essentially political. Once opposition strays from this terrain and slides into violence, it turns into rebellion, which is synonymous with "fitna" [translation unknown]. That is the point where confrontation with the government turns into destructive hatred of the state and risks the country's ruin.

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Any legal opposition must absolutely disassociate itself from a fundamentalist opposition that has placed itself outside the law.

Terrorism must be condemned, clearly and absolutely. This is a moral imperative that transcends all political considerations. Failure to dissociate amounts to self-disqualification from the political arena.

There are some who think a peaceful opposition movement would be futile and ineffectual.

Such a judgment, in the current national and international environment, underestimates democracy's real potential. It is, in truth, a gamble—difficult, obviously—but infinitely more fecund and constructive than the path of barbarism and despair.

If freedom of conscience, belief, expression, and association, along with the corollary freedom to create and act, constitutes the most compelling reason for having a democracy, the essence of political and social modernity, and the ultimate justification of any enlightened and representative government in our era—then we may say that democracy has established its right to exist in our country.

The historical legitimacy that was derived from the struggle for liberation has been mined to exhaustion. The "culture" of the one-party system has been discredited. The democratic ideal, holding out a new way of thinking, acting, and governing, offers a solution of radical change that is worthy of our aspirations and sacrifices.

Democracy is not an "option" Algeria can afford to decline, nor is it merely a tactical ploy for external consumption; rather, it is an internal necessity for our development, a principle indispensable for the regeneration of our society.

Even in the tragic circumstances in which we find ourselves today, democracy gives new proofs day after day of its continuing vitality. Far from weakening under the blows of terrorism, it is becoming stronger and stronger. Like all of humanity's great causes, it has its heros and its martyrs, and Algerian women are making an invaluable contribution in this struggle.

If the fight for independence was based on the right of peoples to self-determination, then its success can be considered one of the great victories for democracy.

But there is much more to democracy than we have realized to date, and we must be inspired to complete the task of building it if we hope to get our bearings again and see democracy rooted solidly in our political life. However, a return to the "November message" will be fruitless unless we concurrently take a critical look at our own history, breaking with the conformism and complacent hero-worship of the past.

Notwithstanding the backward-looking defeatism so fashionable at present, it is undeniable that the developmental policy pursued since independence has had some beneficial results, by virtue of which Algeria today is in a position to weather the current tempest and stay on its feet. This is not to ignore the negative developments we have seen in certain domains such as culture, education, agriculture, and housing.... But none of these shortcomings justifies such sweeping condemnations as "nothing has been done since 1962." Such negativity jeopardizes the future of the whole democracy project by artificially cutting it off from the national experience.

Defense of our national identity requires us to go beyond Berber-versus-Arab polemics. These two realities have coexisted in Algeria for over a thousand years. Berberness is an essential dimension of our identity rooted in our history, culturally authentic and humanistically enriching.

With roots in both African and Mediterranean civilization, the Algerian nation is part and parcel of Arab-Muslim civilization.

The concept of democracy has never been opposed to Islam, which is an integral component of our identity. Indeed, it was only under the aegis of a reborn Algerian nation that the project of rehabilitating Islam could get under way. Such a project cannot be pursued, however, without returning to a sound concept of Islam: an Islam that rejects any form of intolerance, superstition, or archaism; an Islam whose religious teachings support rationality and that is attuned to the needs of the present day.

The time has come to replace political structures that are based on one man, however charismatic—or one institution, however prestigious—with government derived from universal suffrage. The political leadership would be determined by competition and public debate. Thus far, our political institutions have only given the appearance of obeying such mechanisms. Interference of every kind always reduced elections to a formality and democracy to a facade.

For democracy to function properly presupposes the massive emergence of a civil society critically sensitized to its role in building and overseeing the new political system.

From that view, a reform of state and institutions becomes indispensable. Given the disastrous experiments for which Algeria has paid such a heavy price, this reform needs to pay especially close attention to certain strategic factors:

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- it has become apparent that the practice of giving clientelistic factors more weight than objective criteria in personnel selection is inappropriate;
- corruption keeps the citizenry skeptical, spreads a false image of Algeria abroad, and undermines prospects for national recovery;
- inflexible attitudes based on past orthodoxies have shown themselves refractory to creativity and oblivious to changing circumstances or human needs;
- a decision-making process restricted to an elite circle perpetuates an authoritarianism that leads to drift and stagnation.

Today it is up to all patriots, all republicans, all democrats cognizant of the urgent need to rescue the country from the crisis, to join together to create a Republican National Alliance which many of us would like to see appear without further delay.

The goals of this alliance are:

- to restore to Algerian women and men their faith in the future, by putting an end to pervasive skepticism and by combating fatalism and irresponsibility;
- to clarify the political climate and constitute a source for new initiatives, a totally committed force that works actively to resolve the crisis;
- to create a locus of reflection with a view to marking out the path to the future and preparing to furnish the leadership;
- to struggle against the exclusionism that casts a number of our young people into the arms of destructive violence and nihilism;
- to take into account the legitimate demands of these youth and convince them that Algeria, which cares for its children, aims to put them back on the right road, the path of dignity and social justice;
- to work to build a republican state worthy of the name, a modern democracy based on equality before the law irrespective of circumstances or gender, political or religious considerations.

Drawing on its rich human and material potential, Algeria is perfectly capable of meeting the challenges that assail it and building a future of dignity and prosperity for all.

[Signed] Sidi Fredj

[Dated] 5 May

Egypt

Mubarak, Rabin, Christopher To Meet in Cairo

NC0506160795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1524 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA) — A tripartite meeting between President Husni Mubarak, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will be held on Friday [9 June].

MENA has learned from informed sources that the meeting will focus on Middle East peace developments, particularly on the Palestinian track.

MENA has also learned that a meeting of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee will be held in Cairo next week under the chairmanship of Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The Liaison Committee will discuss issues pertaining to the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli talks.

In the context of current peace efforts, Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for Middle East peace talks, will arrive in Cairo on Wednesday [7 June]. He will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa about the regional peace operation.

Foreign Minister Reviews Mubarak-'Arafat Talks

NC0506151795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1407 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA) — Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today that President Husni Mubarak's meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this morning focused on the negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track and expected events in light of the existence of a specific date for reaching an agreement on the redeployment of Israeli forces to locations outside the West Bank's towns and villages.

Musa said that Mubarak's talks with 'Arafat also dealt with the issue of Palestinian elections. He noted that this issue is being discussed against a background of a specific date to reach agreement on elections, namely, 1 July. Musa noted that this would be the second stage in the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

The foreign minister said they also reviewed conditions in Gaza and Jericho, future visits to the region by foreign officials, discussions about the peace process that will be held with them, and the current efforts to bolster negotiations on all tracks.

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Western 'Discrimination' Over Bosnia Viewed

NC0406075295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 4 Jun (MENA) — The newspaper AL-AKHBAR believes that the Western reaction to the downing of a U.S. plane and a NATO plane by the Serbian criminals will not go beyond a few hollow statements following which, a dark curtain will fall on these crimes. As for the question of imposing sanctions on the Serbs, nobody will dare to even think about it, the paper adds.

In a commentary published today, the paper notes that the West's handling of this crisis evokes a great deal of sorrow in the hearts of people in the Arab world as it implies blatant racial discrimination. This is clear from the crisis of the U.S. plane that crashed over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which two Libyan suspects are accused [of causing the crash]. The paper adds that although the accusation against the two Arabs is not conclusive, the Western nations hastened to pressure the Security Council to impose various sanctions on the country to which the two accused citizens belong.

The paper draws the attention of the Islamic world to another matter revealed by the downing of the U.S. plane by the Serbs; namely, that the missile that downed the U.S. plane is Russian-made. This reveals an important source of arms supplies to the Serbian aggressors against the Bosnian Muslims, something that must be taken into account when dealing with this country that supplies the Serbian criminals with weapons.

Columnist Criticizes Pentagon Middle East Report

NC0506212095 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 May 95 p 5

[Column by Samiyah al-Jundi: "A U.S. Report"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We must pay serious attention to the Pentagon report issued last week on the U.S. security strategy in the Middle East. The report emphasizes that the world in the next century will become more dependent on Gulf oil than it is now. Therefore, the most important security interest for the United States in the Middle East is to ensure the flow of oil without obstruction from the Gulf region to world markets at stable prices.

The report affirms that about one third of the world's oil reserves lie in the Gulf region and the surrounding states. Besides the reserves that lie in North Africa, 70 percent of the world's reserves are situated in the Middle East. Therefore, the United States and its economic allies will increase their dependence on Middle East oil to maintain the independence of their economies.

The Pentagon report deals with the U.S. security strategy in the region and the challenges it is facing. One of the most important challenges is maintaining Israel's security. The report says the threat to Israel has reached a minimum level as a result of Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war and as a result of the peace agreements between Israel and the PLO and between Israel and Jordan. Israel's military and technological superiority and its supremacy in advanced education, training, and military capability give it the potential to deter any threat of war against it. Nevertheless, the United States remains committed to safeguarding Israel's security.

The 40-page U.S. report elaborates on the danger Iraq and Iran pose to U.S. oil interests. It explains the dual "containment" or "weakening" policy the United States is pursuing against these two states. It also explains the series of stands the United States has adopted in favor of Israel, whether in regard to the exclusion of Israel from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the U.S. veto at the Security Council on the Jerusalem issue, or the relocation of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. Therefore, the matter is not one of one-upmanship to attract Jewish votes in the United States, but surpasses this to a strategy that depends on Israel as a main pillar for protecting U.S. interests in the region.

Reading the Pentagon report not only frees us from the illusion that the United States is a fair partner in the peace process, but also opens our eyes to the fact that at a time when the world is poised to enter the 21st century with strong economic and technological muscles, the Middle East faces the fate of returning to the past between the hammer of the U.S. pressure and the anvil of Israel's arrogance. What are we going to do about this?

Opposition Parties Reject Amended Penal Code

NC0506145095 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 May 95 p 1

[Statement issued by leaders of the opposition parties and representatives of political forces on 29 May]

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has surprised the public and the political parties and forces by passing a new law amending some provisions of the Penal Code, Criminal Procedures, and the Journalists Syndicate Laws. This law changes some actions that the law had not previously regarded as criminal into criminal ones liable for punishment. It also tightened and toughened some penalties included in the Penal Law, and repealed the protection that the law provided for the press and

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freedom of opinion, namely that protective custody in publications cases was inadmissible.

Appalled by this law's blatant aggression against freedom of speech and the press and its serious violation of democracy which threatens to destroy the remaining limited democratic margin and endangers the homeland's stability and security, the leaders and representatives of the political parties and forces reject this law and declare their certain determination to work with all the civic society's forces and institutions that care for democracy and human rights to repeal this law and all the battery of laws that conflict with the Constitution, public freedoms, and democracy.

The government has surprised the public and society's institutions with this law. Though the Justice Ministry — according to its minister — had been preparing this law for one year and though the People's Assembly speaker referred the draft law to the Assembly's "Legislative Affairs" committee on 22 May, the committee met on the morning of 27 May in complete secrecy and in the absence of a majority of its members, particularly those from the opposition parties and the independents who were surprised when the draft law was presented to the committee.

The committee, which met in the presence of the ministers of justice, cabinet affairs, and state for People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs, approved the draft law quickly and submitted it to the People's Assembly during its afternoon session on the same day without being included in the Assembly's agenda already distributed to the members and in the absence of a large number of deputies, including the leaders of the two opposition parties. The Assembly immediately passed the law. In its plan to surprise everyone with this law, the government forgot that it should have referred it to the State Council, as the People's Assembly law stipulates, to be revised before being presented to the People's Assembly and that it should have sought the view of the Journalists Syndicate on amendments that concern its law and on legal provisions that directly affect the press and journalists' work. The president signed the law only hours after it was passed and it was immediately published in an Official Gazette supplement.

All these measures are abnormal and nominally make this law null and void.

But the real catastrophe lies in the grave substance added to the provisions of the Penal Law and the deletions made to the Criminal Procedures Law and the Journalists Syndicate Law.

With these "legal" amendments, the government aims to destroy the single semblance of democracy in Egypt, namely the only available measure of press freedom, particularly for partisan media. It turns into a criminal act many actions that fall within the context of freedom of opinion and the citizens' right to information and even any report or opinion unacceptable to the ruler.

Instead of proper legal language, the government used elastic and vague phrases and terms that lend themselves to various interpretations. Among them were such terms as "tendentious" rumors, "sensationalist" propaganda, matters "related to public peace and the public interest," damage to "the public good," "contempt" for the state's institutions and those in charge of them, and "damaging the national economy or the national interest."

The law did not only deem every news report or action displeasing to the government a criminal offense but made imprisonment mandatory in such cases. Formerly, the law allowed judges to choose between imprisonment or a fine. Penalties were also stiffened and imprisonment on one of the above charges was raised from 24 hours to one year and from one year to five years. Fines were increased from 500 to 20,000 pounds.

Moreover the law swept aside a basic guarantee of the freedom of expression, namely, the ban on preventive custody in matters of publication in the newspapers. The pretext used this time was that this was a privilege given to a special segment of the public and that, consequently, the ban contravened the principle of equality among the citizens. This is a false claim because preventive custody is a temporary measure intended to safeguard the integrity of an ongoing investigation. In cases of publication via the newspapers the conditions for preventive custody do not obtain, and therefore it must not be carried out. The aim, however, is to use preventive custody as an immediate punishment against journalists to intimidate them and imprison them for the longest possible time without a court order.

This law has clear implications: The government is seeking to impose further restrictions on the public's right to obtain information, protect corruption which is a dangerous phenomenon harmful to the national economy and society's values, build up the arsenal of antiliberty laws, and deprive the political parties, on the eve of the People's Assembly elections, of their partisan newspapers which are the only means by which they can influence public opinion. Meanwhile, the ruling party has taken possession of the journalistic institutions that are only nominally owned by the Consultative Council and the radio and television services. Furthermore, using the 14-year-old state of emergency and other laws, the government has banned public assembly outside the political parties' headquarters and banned peaceful

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marches and the distribution of statements and other methods of addressing the public.

In view of the above facts, the leaders and representatives of the political parties and the democratic political forces and the chief editors of the partisan newspapers held a meeting on the evening of 28 May 1995, and adopted a series of emergency measures to clarify the catastrophic implications of this law to the public and to confront it and seek to have it abolished. They will meet again on 8 June 1995, to discuss the possibility of adopting further necessary measures to confront this continuing and escalating assault on public freedoms and democratic rights. Aware of the danger to the homeland, they maintain that saving the homeland is the compulsory duty of every sincere patriot.

We pray God to grant us success.

Daily Claims New Press Law 'Shackles Democracy'

NC0606060995 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
29 May 95 p 14

[From the "Idea" column by Mustafa Amin]

[FBIS Translated Text] This law is against freedom, the Constitution, and the entire Egyptian people. It does not just shackle the press but also silences and immobilizes it and turns journalists into disciplined, obedient, and subservient employees who have nothing to do but to shout "long live the ministers."

The press had been afflicted by laws that shackled it, laws that negated its existence and turned the press from a sword in the nation's hand into being considered a dagger in its back. But it has never been afflicted by a law like this, which turns any innocent word into a crime meriting five years in prison.

What is meant by "news that disturbs the public peace?" Ministers could be annoyed and vexed by any criticism, opposition, or word that the rulers and the great people do not like. The term "contempt for state institutions or those in charge of them" applies to any caricature and will clear all caricatures from all newspapers and magazines.

If I say that the elections were rigged and even if I say that the elections were not free, then this is contempt for one of the state's institutions and those in charge of it.

It has never happened before that a law was introduced into parliament on tiptoe so as not to be heard or noticed by anyone. This law was approved in just two hours and referred from one department to another "wearing an invisible hat" until it reached the People's Assembly.

It is ironic that it was on the day honoring the media that the media was hanged by this strange and suspicious law that shackles democracy.

How can free elections be held under this law, which can accuse anyone who says "peace be with you" of showing contempt for the authorities!

How could a new press law be issued that ignores the Journalists Syndicate, which only heard or learned about it from reading the press?

The press does not bury secrets.

Trade Line With Gaza Begins Operation

NC0306145795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1340 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] al-'Arish, 3 Jun (MENA) — The trade line between Egypt and Gaza has started operating for the first time via the land port of entry at Rafah. Egyptian products are being exported via that line to meet the needs of the Palestinian self-rule areas, particularly for foodstuffs and building materials.

A total of 149.6 tons of Egyptian rice, 600 tons of cement, and 17 tons of dairy products are being exported via the line.

Hamdi al-Ahtam, the customs director in Rafah, has said that the entry of Egyptian products will be facilitated, where the goods will enter as transit goods on which no customs fees will be charged. A special customs point will be established to serve the trade line.

Palestinian Liaison Officer Jamal Hiww has said that Egypt will provide the Palestinian Authority with its needs for commodities and products, particularly foodstuffs and building materials. He added that the trade line will be used for exporting Palestinian products through the Egyptian air and sea ports.

Daily Criticizes Algeria's 'Muslim Fundamentalists'

NC0606063395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1925 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA) — The newspaper AL-AKHBAR stresses that the barbaric methods used by terrorist gangs in Algeria, gangs that have killed countless numbers of innocent people, show that the sole aim of these gangs is to seize power at any cost, even if it takes place over the skulls of hundreds or thousands of people.

In a commentary in the 6 June issue, the newspaper says a group calling itself "Muslim fundamentalists" has contributed greatly toward causing a distorted image of

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Islam in the eyes of some people who hate our orthodox religion, which calls for peace and amity.

The newspaper says those who hide under the cloak of this tolerant religion yet wantonly shed blood by claiming that they are defending it, have made many people believe that Islam is a religion of murder and sabotage.

The newspaper asks whether there is a crime worse than the crime of those who have turned their religion into an area for trade and exploitation and into a ladder to gain power.

Concluding, AL-AKHBAR states that any dialogue with such professional killers will only make them more deluded and arrogant.

Sudan

More Ummah Party Members Detained; Plot Alleged

AB0106191195 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 1 Jun 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Sudan, there have been further arrests of members of the outlawed opposition Ummah Party. The party's leader and former prime minister, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, was detained last month and accused of subversive activities. His detention was followed by a score of arrests of party members and now there have been more. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report:

The privately owned daily newspaper, (AL-AKBAR AL-YUM), reported today that 13 members of the former ruling Ummah Party in Sudan have been detained in a series of arrests that began with al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's detention about two weeks ago. Those arrested include (Bakil Adil), a former education minister, and (Sara Nagdallah), both senior members of the party. The paper says the names of the arrested people cropped up during the interrogation of others previously arrested.

According to the paper, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi himself had, during interrogation, admitted he had knowledge of a subversive plot, a plot which had been hatched, the paper claims, by retired Army Brigadier ('Abd al-Aziz Kaled) which, it said, is being supported by the Eritrean Government.

Eritrea broke off diplomatic ties with Sudan last year, accusing Khartoum of engaging in hostile activities against Eritrea. Al- Sadiq al-Mahdi is also reported as saying he is not certain whether any of the Ummah leadership inside the country were behind the plot. The paper added that those arrested who were not found to be connected with the plot will be set free.

Apparently, ('Abd al-Razal Alner), the former governor of Kordofan State, and ('Abd al-Muhammad Hajj), a former attorney general, have already been released.

Radio Views Crackdown on al-Mahdi, Opposition

AB0506205395 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 5 Jun 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Reports coming out of Sudan over the past few weeks indicate there has been something of a major clampdown on members of the banned opposition parties, particularly the Ummah Party led by former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. He has been either in and out of jail or under virtual house arrest under the Islamic-oriented military council, led by General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. Journalist Jane Cochan is just back from Sudan, and when she came into our studio, Robin White asked her how extensive the crackdown on the opposition was.

[Cochan] Well, as you know, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was picked up again. He seems to have [words indistinct], but this time his wife is particularly worried, because she isn't allowed to see him. He is in Kubar prison. Okay, at least she knows where he is, but she is not allowed to see him. Even a human rights lawyer who is in town — Khartoum — right now was not allowed to see him. Journalists are being picked up, editors, anyone who criticizes the press [word indistinct], other opposition leaders, whether it be other Ummah members or members of the Communist Party. It is almost as if a spring cleaning... [pauses] but people, they are coming out of the woodwork, because some of them are saying: Well, things can't get any worse. So, economically, it is getting a lot worse. A lot of the young people don't see a future in the country. A lot of them think that the only way to topple this regime is through another coup.

[White] Did you see al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's wife?

[Cochan] Yes, I did, Sara al-Mahdi.

[White] She was at her home?

[Cochan] Well, I had to meet her in another house. She was afraid that I come to her house because she thought a) I'd be followed or b) she was being followed; and she said she has been harassed quite a bit, after this episode, so we had to meet somewhere else.

[White] So, how easy or difficult is it to meet people who would consider themselves to be in the opposition?

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[Cochan] I had to go through about three people. There is a question of meeting someone in Omdurman, or rather, after 6 PM; and then you get taken to a house, and then you take a taxi some other house, and then you go; but they will speak.

[White] Is anybody coming out [word indistinct]?

[Cochan] Well, I interviewed one member of the Communist Party, who had been in jail for a good... [pauses] for the past 20 years of his life. He has got about three week to go. He said he wasn't tortured too bad in the last couple of months. He did have some scars, and he did show me. He was taken to ghost houses, prison....

[White, interrupting] What do you mean ghost houses?

[Cochan] Ghost houses. Well, the government, of course, says they don't exist. They are houses.... [pauses] the one he was taken to, he said was behind the Citibank. These are just ordinary houses — security offices — where, you know, revolutionary thinkers, quote unquote, are tortured. He was tortured because the security officers wanted him to release names — other members of the underground Communist Party. He was tortured. He said he didn't release any names, but they kept him there under solitary confinement, and another torture session; they said: Who are the names on the list, and he refused. So, they were trying to extrapolate that sort of information from him.

[White] When people get arrested now, are they still taken to these so-called ghost houses?

[Cochan] Oh yea. You know, I got them to draw me diagrams, though, actually, these buildings could be an office block, and, you know, in the back of a bakery. I mean, you don't have a sign saying ghost house, but there are well-known security places where you just get taken. Even another group of women who were taken this year.... [pauses] Every year there is an annual march protesting the officers who were killed in the alleged 1990 coup d'etat, and there were about 20 officers similarly, you know, they were picked up, they were killed without a trial, they don't know where the bodies are. Now, these wives and relatives of the men that were executed in 1990 held a march where they distributed a few leaflets saying, we want to find the bodies of our loved ones, I mean. And then, they were picked up — the two women. One was Samira, who was the ringleader. In fact, she was always in the Amnesty International front, and she is not afraid at all; she thinks things could not get any worse. Samira was picked up April this year, she was tortured, she was beaten, she was harassed, taken to a ghost house and the security office.

Rebel Returnees 'Convinced' Dialogue Necessary

EA0306160395 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 3 Jun (SUNA) — A number of returnees from the outlaws' movement have asserted they have been fully convinced that the sole means for solving the south problem is through peaceful dialogue.

The returnees, interviewed by SUNA, said that Garang movement had failed to bring forward bases for peace, pointing out that the outlaws' movement experienced a state of disintegration and splits as many of its members have become convinced of the peaceful solution. The defectors added that another reason for their return home was their conviction with the federalism applied by the government, which has been the demand of southerners since Juba Conference in 1947, besides the government's seriousness toward the realization of peace in the south.

Richard Deng, who was secretary of the chief of staff of Riak Machar faction of the outlaws' movement, said the movement had lost its way toward peace despite adoption of federalism by the government.

Another returnee, Major Nhial Chuol, who was a member of the central committee of mainstream faction of the outlaws' movement, told SUNA that he had been jailed by Garang for three years for disagreeing with him.

Tunisia

*Embargo Impacts on Employment Opportunities

95AF0079A Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 19 Apr 95 pp 18-20

[Article by Moncef Mahroug: "The Specter of Expulsions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Is it a case of economic necessity or political reprisals? Whatever the case, Tripoli's threat to expel foreigners is awakening painful memories in Tunis.*

It was August 1985. Deprived of the fruits of long years of labor and mistreated, they returned home with their pockets empty. Several tens of thousands of them were being driven out of Libya after working there for years. Overwhelmed, Tunisian authorities tried to deal with the most urgent matters first by setting up reception facilities. But for a country unable to create enough jobs every year to absorb the normal increase in demand, providing work quickly for several tens of thousands of additional unemployed who had suddenly appeared from elsewhere was no small task.

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Ten years later, that nightmare is again haunting Tunisian officials. The reason is that ever since Libyan authorities made their threat in mid-March, the specter of expulsion has been on people's minds. The number of Tunisians still in that country currently totals between 50,000 and 70,000.

The Jamahiriya [Libya] stopped being an El Dorado back in the early 1980's. There are no longer as many Tunisians in the country as there were then.

In Tripoli, it is explained that because of the embargo, Libya can no longer afford to provide jobs and a living for 2.5 million foreigners. Does this mean that the threats will be carried out? Saad Mujber, former ambassador to France and head of the Department of International Relations in the "General People's Congress" (Libya's Parliament), takes a malicious pleasure in being vague on that point.

The picture he paints of the state of the Libyan economy is not a rosy one: the drop in petroleum prices and the rise in the cost of production per barrel due to the embargo on petroleum equipment and spare parts have led to "the very noticeable drop in citizens' incomes and the appearance of unemployment in Libya for the first time." Libyan officials are reportedly divided, however, on the question of what to do with the immigrants. Some, unexpectedly emulating someone like France's Jean-Marie Le Pen, like to play on the theme of "foreigners who come to eat the bread of Libyans." In so doing, they are trying to convince the people that the solution to the economic crisis is to "give priority to Libyans in access to jobs, housing, medical care, and education."

For his part, Saad Mujber is "hostile to the expulsion of foreigners" and is hoping for "other solutions." "We must make reason prevail, exercise self-control, and make sacrifices for our Arab brothers," he says. The diplomat immediately qualifies his position by mentioning the irresistible impact of the figures, which "unfortunately cannot be ignored." Although saying that he is ready to allow "Libyans to experience unemployment for a time," he flatly refuses to let "the people experience famine for the sake of others." All the more since those "others," meaning in this case the neighboring Arab countries, have not, in Mujber's opinion, supported the Jamahiriya in its ordeal with the embargo. That being the case, they cannot continue "to profit from our situation at a time when we are experiencing multiple harm."

'No Exceptions'

If the decision to expel foreigners is eventually carried out, Mujber would like for it to be done in a "civilized manner" so as to avoid the former "excesses." All foreigners will be in the same boat, so to speak. But it is hard to imagine the Libyans running the risk of sending home the several hundred thousand—some say 1 million—Egyptians living there. Such a move might cost them the support of Egypt, which during the Lockerbie affair stood beside Libya to the point of irritating the United States.

On the other hand, Tripoli says it is disappointed by Tunisia's attitude. All the more since Tunisian-Libyan relations have a checkered history. The honeymoon that began after President Ben Ali came to power in November 1987 misfired. It ended in 1988 when Colonel al-Qadhafi realized that "brother Zine El Abidine Ben Ali" had no intention of binding his country to Libya.

Despite the quarrel with Tripoli, Tunis has tried to favor an equitable solution to the Lockerbie affair that would take into account not only the demands of the Americans and British but also the reservations and apprehensions of the Libyans.

The exhortation to put an end to the "suffering" that the embargo is causing "for the brother Libyan people" is frequently heard in speeches by President Ben Ali. It is true that—unlike the Egyptians—the Tunisians have not gone so far as to depart from international legality: they are enforcing the embargo against Libya. Hence the scarcely veiled accusation that they are profiting from the misfortunes of others. Mujber points out that "the Tunisian dinar is worth 3.360 Libyan dinars (about 17 French francs) at the official exchange rate but is being exchanged (Editor's note: on the parallel market) at only 300 millimes (1.60 French francs)."

The Tunisians are therefore not wrong to take the threat of expulsion seriously. It is true that they sometimes view it as a maneuver aimed at deterring Westerners—through the latter's friends in the region—from decreeing an oil embargo. But Tunis may prefer to imagine the worst, if only to ward it off.

Most of the Tunisians working in Libya are from the South, an area visited quite frequently by drought. During lean years—the past two, for example—inhabitants of that region emigrate to Libya to support their families. So from an economic standpoint and, consequently, a security standpoint as well, it is important to the Tunisian Government that Libya remain open.

That is no longer a certainty at all, despite the Libyan assurances conveyed to the Tunisian Government first by Major Khouildi H'midi and then by Abdelaati Obaidi, former ambassador to Tunisia. The reason is that plenty of "contrary signs" are arriving from Tripoli.

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Some people are convinced that the threat is "not serious." Others do not rule out the possibility of the expulsions, considering that they are covered in a circular. A third source says that "only foreigners whose situation is irregular" are affected. That last response is disturbing because it leaves the door wide open to any and all interpretations. The notion of a worker in an irregular situation is elastic. Five years ago, the authorities decreed the Jamahiriya to be the "land of all Arabs." The latter had the same rights as Libyans, including the right to work without first having to obtain a contract like "real" foreigners. Result: only 10 percent of the Tunisians who have lived in Libya for a long time have contracts. Except during major crises, which have not spared anyone, Tunisians without a contract have so far not been bothered.

But they are likely to be bothered in the future if al-Qadhafi decides to treat Arabs like other foreigners and make them "candidates" for expulsion despite themselves.

How To Profit From Embargo

Who profits from the embargo to which Libya has been subjected since 1992? For the Libyans, there is no doubt: they are the losers, and their neighbors are the only winners. As always, however, reality is a little different. In Tunisia, for example, some groups and regions are undeniably benefiting from the situation, while others are bearing the brunt of it.

Tunisia's southern region is in the first category: networks have appeared there and given rise to a genuine black market in which everything is bought and sold. The Libyan dinar is the chief "merchandise" being traded. Genuine traveling exchange brokers operate all along the road leading from Gabes, nearly 150 km from the border, to the gates of Libya. They buy Libyan dinars at one-eighth or one-tenth of their actual value, depending on the day's rate, and resell them to travelers going to Libya, pocketing a substantial premium in the process. In another scenario, the dinars are used to buy all kinds of merchandise on the Libyan market and then resell it in Tunisia. Thanks to the difference between the official rate and the parallel rate, the profit is far from negligible.

'Libya Market'

That is precisely where the shoe pinches as far as other social classes, meaning the manufacturers and merchants, are concerned. The reason is that in the flood of merchandise entering Tunisia from Libya, some items were actually produced in Tunisian factories. And their price on the black market is below that charged in the stores. Hence the outcry from manufacturers and merchants, whose organization, the UTICA (Tunisian Union for Industry, Trade, and Handicrafts), has been firmly pleading their case before the government for the the past three years.

At first the government gave the impression of hesitating. Its attitude is understandable because the black market, nicknamed the "Libya Market," has advantages as well as drawbacks. True, it means losses for manufacturers (especially in the food and textile industries) and for merchants, but it also puts products that are always more expensive in the normal channels within reach of people on an average budget. Moreover, the black market provides work for people who would otherwise be unemployed.

For Almost Nothing

But the government eventually gave in to the employers. Last November it moved the market stalls from the town centers out to the periphery. But the black market has lost a lot of its appeal. This is because prices on the black market have climbed noticeably, the reason being that supplies have become more difficult to obtain as a result of restrictions imposed on both sides of the border.

The trade in question displeased authorities in Tripoli as well because the state subsidizes a good many of the products crossing the border to be sold in neighboring countries. But not everyone in Libya is unhappy. Libyans who spend their vacations in Tunisia have learned to profit from the situation.

For example, a Libyan can stay in the neighboring country for almost nothing. All he has to do is bring with him the equivalent of, say, 1,000 Libyan dinars in dollars—which he obtains from his bank at the official rate (1 dinar = $3.30). He can recover his stake by setting aside some of his dollars and then using them, before he returns to Libya, to buy Libyan dinars on the parallel market.

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GCC Urges Caution Over Israeli Normalization

MM0506155695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Mustafa Shihab: "Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary General: We Still Have Reservations Regarding Normalization"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh — Shaykh Fahd al-Qasimi, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], has confirmed that the GCC states still have reservations regarding the normalization process with Israel. At a press conference he held in Riyadh the day before yesterday, he called for the continuation of the policy of caution and care on the question of normalization of relations with Israel. He said: "Normalization with Israel should be linked to the achievement of a final and comprehensive agreement in the region's peace process. We are very cautious and careful not to fall into the trap of the normalization process."

Shaykh al-Qasimi did, however, express support for the Arab states' signing of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. He said that not signing the treaty would not invalidate it. But he did urge the Arab states to "maintain the pressure on and isolate Israel until it gives in to international will and signs the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty." He said: "In the Arab states there are no nuclear projects capable of forcing Israel to sign the treaty. The ideal way is to isolate Israel politically. That is a less damaging option."

The GCC secretary general accused Iran of "procrastination" on the question of its dispute with the United Arab Emirates [UAE] over the islands. He said: "We have reached a stage where direct negotiations have become impossible because of the Iranian side's evasion and procrastination." He said that "although the UAE has proposed referring the issue to the International Court of Justice, nothing has come from Iran other than hints from time to time about willingness to discuss the issue of Abu-Musa Island." He added that "the question of the dispute was raised with the UN secretary general during his recent meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and the secretary general was quoted as saying that he would try to convince Iran of the UAE initiative."

Al-Qasimi expressed the hope "that Iran will realize that the UAE will not stop claiming its rights and that its relations with the GCC states depend on its commitment to good neighborliness, fulfillment of international principles, settlement of disputes by peaceful means, and inadmissibility of the occupation of other people's territory." [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Bosnian Prime Minister Silajdzic Pays Visit

Urges Force Against Serbs

LD0506171595 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1008 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 5 Jun (KUNA) — Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic stressed that it has become essential to use force against Bosnian Serbs to compel them to accept peace and peaceful coexistence.

He said that during the last three years the Serbs have been trying to dupe the international community into believing the war between Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Bosnian Serbs is a doctrinal war between Islam and Christianity.

In an interview last night with Yusuf al-Samit, chairman of the board of directors and director general of the Kuwaiti news agency, Silajdzic pointed out that the situation in his country has started to change in favor of the legitimate government in the last few months. This was due to broader understanding by the European states and the United States of the Serbian expansionist tendency, persistent aggression, and defiance of the international community.

In this context he stressed that his government has been able to establish a regular Army made up of 250,000 soldiers, equipped with only simple weapons because of the military embargo, but still able to confront the advanced military machinery of the Bosnian Serbs and defeat them in many battles.

He pointed out that the problem is that they do not have enough weapons to force the Serbs to accept peace. They have been able in the last three years, however, to establish an Army that they fear and cannot overcome.

The Bosnian prime minister arrived here last Saturday on a four-day official visit, during which he has met Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and held official talks with Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah Al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The Bosnian official criticized the international community, which considered the Bosnian problem a purely internal one that could be solved within the Bosnian borders. But the Serbs' aggression and insistence to go ahead with the war has probably made the international community understand the causes of this war and decide to look for a solution for it.

He made clear that the Serbs' detention of dozens of UN troops and the downing of the U.S. aircraft last Friday

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might be motives to speed up the end of the war raging between the Serbs and government troops. He stressed that the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina is no longer an internal one, rather it carries within it an element that affects the stability of the region and the credibility of the world order as well as an Islamic element.

Silajdic pointed out, however, that his country has proved to the West the civilized attitude of Islam in dealings and tolerance, despite the killing, rape, and destruction of mosques and churches experienced by the Bosnian people and committed by the Serbs.

He said: "We in Bosnia-Herzegovina managed not only to defend ourselves without killing, raping, or destroying, but also to create an image of Islam and Muslims different from that held by the West."

He added: "This is the eighth massacre the Bosnian Muslims have suffered during the last 200 years, and we cannot call this war a religious one. The Serbs are not religious and they do not represent Christianity; they kill both Muslims and Catholics."

He said the war, which has been going on for three years, is an expansionist one through which the Serbs attempt to seize lands using all pretexts and justifications.

Regarding his view on the 14 European states' decision to send a 10,000-strong deterrent force to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Bosnian prime minister said: The existence of political will and recognition of the need to use force and create a balance between the two sides will enable us to impose peace and end the war. However, the discrepancies between NATO and the UN Security Council resolutions and the pursuit of a policy of leniency with the Serbs will not do these forces any good.

He said the key to peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina lay in deploying NATO forces along the Bosnian border, creating a demilitarized zone, and allowing aid convoys to carry out their humanitarian role without obstruction.

During his interview, Silajdzic doubted the capability of these NATO forces to deter the Serbian forces from continuing their aggression. He stressed the need for the international community to prove its ability to make a decision and carry it out. He said: The Serbs are terrorists who do not understand peace.

In this context, he stressed again that Bosnia-Herzegovina was a successful model of the coexistence of religions. However, he said: There are those who do not want this state to be a model of that kind of coexistence, and there are states that do not want the raging fire to spread to Eastern Europe.

Decries Serb Expansionism

LD0506181595 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic held a news conference at Bayan Palace at 1730 this evening attended by representatives of newspapers, news agencies, and local and foreign media. [passage omitted]

The Bosnian prime minister stressed the importance of lifting the arms embargo imposed on his country so that it can defend itself. He said he wished that the international community acted according to the UN Charter and permitted his country to obtain the arms necessary to defend the Bosnian people.

The Bosnian prime minister said the war in Bosnia was against the civilization of humanity. He pointed out that the war in his country expressed the Serbs' expansionist ambitions.

On the talks he held with the amir and the heir apparent, the Bosnian prime minister said the talks focused on the request for Kuwait's political, economic, and diplomatic support.

Promotes Lifting Arms Embargo

LD0506204895 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Bosnian] Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic held a news conference at Bayan Palace at 1739 today. [passage omitted]

[Begin Silajdzic recording, in progress] ...but there is an arms embargo imposed on Bosnia-Herzegovina. Friendly countries, at the forefront of which is Kuwait, want to help us, but there is an arms embargo. The State of Kuwait fully respects the UN Security Council resolutions, including the arms embargo. Talking about the arms embargo, [whether] it is logical, moral, or legitimate, is another matter, but the State of Kuwait respects UN Security Council resolutions. That was my answer to the question. [passage omitted]

Our country is a full and responsible member of the UN, and we hope that the international community will shoulder its responsibility according to the UN Charter, at least allow us to defend ourselves. Unfortunately, this has not happened. What has happened is that the international community, through the UN Security Council, the organization in which we are a full member, unfortunately, this Security Council still insists on imposing the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina. This is the dispute between us and the international community, especially the Security Council.

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We do not see any justification regarding this issue, especially after three years. The death, destruction, mass killing, and deportation... [pauses] two hundred thousand have been killed, among them 17,000 children. If this embargo is a cure, we should change, because after three years it has only resulted in death and destruction. The arms embargo must be lifted so we can find peace, because historically the balance of power has always brought about peace. We in Bosnia-Herzegovina do not ask for the impossible. We ask for what is our legitimate and natural right, which is self-defense. Before anything else we want peace, and when we ask for the arms embargo to be lifted we are asking for peace, meaning that we ask for the arms embargo to be lifted so that we can arm ourselves not for war, but for peace.

If this arms embargo has brought about death, destruction, and war, we hope that lifting the embargo will bring about peace.

With great regret, despite the popular will in Western Europe and the United States, some governments are still insisting on the embargo. However, we feel that there are some changes.

The question was about the current situation. The situation now is that Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is a full member in the UN, has been up until now behaving with full responsibility and in accordance with international laws and the UN Charter. It is still being subjected to Serb aggression, and we cannot defend ourselves.

In my opinion, a historic wrong has been committed by the international community against Bosnia-Herzegovina. With great regret, this wrong will have long-term results that will have negative repercussions on the international community. [end recording]

UAE Chief of Staff Arrives for Cooperation Talks

LD0506102795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0850 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 5 Jun (KUNA) — Lieutenant General Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, chief of the General Staff of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Armed Forces, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Kuwait city today for a one-day visit to the country. The visit is at the invitation of Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah, who was at the airport to greet him upon arrival.

It is expected that during his stay Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid will meet Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir; Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister; and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister. He is also expected to hold talks with the defense minister and senior officials at the Defense Ministry.

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Zayid told KUNA that his visit to Kuwait comes as part of the two fraternal countries' tireless efforts to cement the bonds of brotherly relations. He indicated, however, that his visit is primarily to boost military cooperation between the two countries, to bolster the security and stability of the Gulf region, and to undertake coordination in a positive manner for the joint benefit of the two countries. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With Amir, Prime Minister

LD0506113295 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1000 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At 1030 today his highness the amir received Lieutenant General Muhammad Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff in the United Arab Emirates [UAE]; and 'Abdallah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, undersecretary at the Ministry of Culture and Information in the UAE, as well as the delegation accompanying them. [passage omitted]

At 1100 Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, received in his office at Bayan Palace the chief of the UAE Armed Forces General Staff and the undersecretary at the UAE Ministry of Culture and Information, as well as the delegation accompanying them. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Yemeni President, Delegation Arrive on Visit

LD0506184895 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1806 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 5 Jun (SPA) — His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemeni Republic, arrived in Jeddah this afternoon on an official visit to the Kingdom. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, welcomed him on arrival at the King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport. He was also welcomed on arrival by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and Aviation, and inspector general. [passage omitted]

His excellency the Yemeni president is accompanied by an official delegation which includes: His Excellency 'Abdallah Bin Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the chamber of deputies; His Excellency 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi, deputy prime minister; His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; His Excellency 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-Jammal,

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deputy prime minister and minister of planning and development; His Excellency Isma'il al-Wazir, legal counselor of the president of the republic; His Excellency 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim, minister of legal affairs and the affairs of the chamber of deputies; His Excellency Ahmad Musa'id Husayn, minister of transportation; His Excellency 'Ali Muhammad al-Anasi, chief of the office of the presidency of the republic; His Excellency 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bishri, secretary general of the presidency of the republic; and His Excellency 'Abdallah al-Bar, counselor of the presidency of the republic.

Salih Makes Statement

LD0506202195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1820 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 5 Jun (SPA) — On arrival in Jeddah today Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih made the following statement:

We are happy to pay this visit to our second country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the kind invitation from dear brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, as this fraternal visit will give us the opportunity to discuss everything that concerns the bolstering and developing of fraternal relations between our two countries linked by strong bonds of fraternity and common destiny. It will also give us the chance to activate the bases of coordination between our two peoples and countries proceeding from those common denominators that are so unique they cannot be denied by anyone observing the perpetual and deep relations between two peoples based on amity and solidarity that our values and religion's principles recommend.

With God's permission we are determined to push forward the fraternal relations between the two countries to the point that corresponds with our aspirations and translates the aims we all seek to make these relations reach the best state of development, cooperation, and distinction. The signing of the memorandum of understanding and the exchange of the ratification instruments relating to that has made available a positive atmosphere and a significant basis for the fraternal dialogue regarding all issues of concern to both countries.

No doubt the holding of any meeting between the brothers at any level especially in the current circumstances will provide the opportunity for discussion of all issues and questions and developments of interest to our Arab and Islamic nations in strengthening the unity of the rank, stance, solidarity, and ties of fraternity our nation needs today more than ever to confront the challenges imposed on it. We pray to God Almighty to render us successful for the good of both countries and our Arab and Islamic nations.

Trade Gap Persists Despite Lower Imports

NC0306163195 Paris AFP in English 1507 GMT 3 Jun 95

[By Nadim Kawash]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, June 3 (AFP) — Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude producer, is still suffering from a trade deficit despite a surge in non-oil exports and lower imports, official figures showed on Saturday [3 June].

Although the kingdom's huge oil exports helped it record a surplus in commodities, the overall trade balance remained in the red, figures published by the National Commercial Bank (NCB), Saudi Arabia's biggest bank, showed.

The main cause of the deficit, according to the figures, was a large services import bill.

The NCB report, quoting official Saudi statistics, recorded imports of goods and services at around 186 billion Saudi riyals (49.6 billion dollars) in 1994 and exports at 156 billion riyals (41.6 billion dollars).

This created a deficit in the Kingdom's balance of payment of around 30 billion riyals (eight billion dollars).

It was the ninth year that the Saudi balance of payments has recorded a deficit since oil prices began to fall in the mid 1980s, in contrast with the situation during the oil boom of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Then, Saudi Arabia was enjoying large cash surpluses that had helped it build up a massive investment empire abroad.

The empire, based mainly in the West, has largely been eroded by the kingdom's persistent withdrawals to finance its budget deficits and large defence contracts prompted by the 1990 Iraqi invasion of neighbouring Kuwait.

The balance of payment deficit persisted although imports of goods dropped to around 88 billion riyals (23.46 billion dollars) in 1994 from nearly 106 billion riyals (28.26 billion dollars) in 1993.

Non-oil exports, mainly petrochemicals, grew to around 16.8 billion riyals (4.48 billion dollars) from 14.2 billion riyals (3.78 billion dollars). They did not exceed one billion dollars a year in the mid 1980s.

"Free capital transfer and exchange rates are among the main characteristics of Saudi trade policy. It does not include any restrictions that could support the balance of payments," NCB chief economist, Henry Azzam, said

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in a study published in the United Arab Emirates daily al-Khalij.

Figures obtained from the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund showed Saudi Arabia had suffered from a high balance of payment deficit over the past few years because of low oil prices and large payments to finance the Gulf War.

The deficit in the balance of goods, services and income hit a record 7.35 billion dollars in 1991, when the budget deficit also peaked at around 33 billion dollars.

Imports of goods alone reached nearly 124.6 billion riyals (33.2 billion dollars) during that year, according to the figures.

Saudi Arabia produces around eight million barrels per day (bpd) of oil, nearly 12 percent of the world's total crude supplies. It also controls more than a quarter of the global oil reserves of around one trillion barrels.

Weak oil prices have turned its budget surplus into a deficit, which was projected at around four billion dollars in 1995 compared with 10 billion dollars in 1994. It was slashed thanks to a sharp cut in spending.

Experts said the deficit persisted mainly because of Saudi Arabia's sizable defence purchases, which account for nearly one third of total expenditure.

Defence spending peaked at around 67.7 billion riyals (18.05 billion dollars) in 1992, accounting for as high as 32 percent of the total budget.

Although it was cut in 1994 and 1995, defence spending stood at around 33.1 percent and 32.6 percent of the budget, according to official estimates.

Apart from austerity measures, Saudi Arabia is planning to carry out reforms to restore balance to its debt-ridden economy. They include encouraging foreign investment and privatisation of key public institutions.

Economists said the trade deficit could ease in 1995 as imports are projected to decline further due to an economic downturn caused by a cut in government spending to 40 billion dollars from 42.66 billion dollars in 1994.

Yemen

Daily Interviews President on Upcoming Saudi Visit

JN0506185095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1720 GMT 5 Jun 95

["Text" of interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, by unidentified Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH newspaper correspondent, in Sanaa; date not given; from the "Follow-Up on the News" program — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-JAZIRAH] Your Excellency, Mr. President: You are about to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and meet with your brother, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. What is the significance of this visit?

[Salih] The visit to our second country, the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, is in response to a cordial invitation by the dear brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The visit comes amid a new positive climate in relations between the two fraternal countries following the signing of the memorandum of understanding. The visit is an important step to enhance brotherly contacts between the two countries and advance bilateral ties to fulfill the aspirations of the two fraternal, neighborly states for cooperation, understanding, progress, and prosperity. No doubt, any meeting between brothers on any level provides an opportunity to discuss all issues of interest to our Arab and Islamic nations. We are in dire need of such meetings among brothers to close ranks and unify stands in order to restore Arab and Islamic solidarity, which is necessary to enhance the nation's capabilities in the face of challenges.

[AL-JAZIRAH] During your upcoming visit, will you sign agreements and endorse joint understandings on the border between the two fraternal countries?

[Salih] God willing, the visit will create new prospects for the fraternal bilateral ties. It is also an opportunity to hold consultations on all issues of interest to the two countries, primarily the border issue. The visit will also pave the way for a final endorsement of what will be reached by the committees formed between the two countries in accordance with the memorandum of understanding and the views that will be presented to the leaders of the two countries to work out the border issue and delineate it in a final way.

[AL-JAZIRAH] Stemming from the principles of fraternity and neighborliness, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has supported many educational, health, and development plans in sisterly Yemen. How do you view such plans, considering their vitality for the Yemeni people?

[Salih] We in the Yemeni Republic highly appreciate and value the Kingdom's prominent contributions to the development drive in our country. The Saudi projects in Yemen symbolize the sincere fraternal cooperation between the two fraternal peoples. The Yemeni people appreciate these plans.

[AL-JAZIRAH] Your Excellency, Mr. President: The two fraternal countries have signed a memorandum of

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understanding that reflects the strong ties between the two countries. How do view this memorandum and the future of Yemeni-Saudi relations?

[Salih] We are eager to work out all outstanding issues between the two countries through brotherly dialogue and understanding. This is in the interest of the two fraternal, neighborly peoples and serves their stability. This also foils all schemes that were aimed at creating tension and differences between the two countries, which only benefit the enemies of the two peoples and the nation. Praise be to God, we are satisfied with the memorandum of understanding signed on 27th Ramadan, corresponding to 5 April, in Holy Mecca. The memorandum has outlined the appropriate mechanisms of negotiations to work out all issues that are of interest to fraternal ties, primarily the border issue. The memorandum embodies the goodwill of the two countries and their mutual desire to lay a strong foundation for their fraternal, good-neighborly relations and expand prospects for progress and development. We are optimistic about a prosperous future for Yemeni-Saudi relations, God willing, and we expect further progress and development in our ties. This is natural for two fraternal, neighborly states which have shared good, constructive relations all along. These two states also share close ties of kinship, blood, faith, history, and common destiny.

Makes Predeparture Statement

JN0506182595 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage mitted] In a predeparture statement to SABA', the Yemeni news agency, brother Lt. Gen. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said: While leaving the homeland, along with an accompanying delegation, for Saudi Arabia, I would like to express my profound happiness at this visit. This visit comes after we took a positive step on the path of enhancing the sisterly relations with the fraternal Saudi Arabia.

President Salih added: I consider this visit as a valuable opportunity to continue bilateral dialogue on the highest levels, so a push will be given to bilateral relations, so that they will express what they are supposed to be on the popular and official levels in the interest of all. This is especially true since these relations have restored their well-being through the memorandum of understanding, which has a sound basis and contains a civilized method that we will resort to in order to resolve all outstanding problems between the two countries, including the border issue between the two neighbors.

He continued: I was pleased with the invitation of my brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques, at a time when we are in dire need of reconciliation and of forgetting all that was brought about by the past crises in terms of estrangement and the stalemate in inter-Arab relations.

Salih Sends Messages to British, Italian Leaders

JN0406143295 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received (Jordon Scrapen), UK ambassador to our country, and asked him to convey a message to British Prime Minister John Major.

The message deals with bilateral relations and fields of cooperation between both friendly countries and ways to enhance them as well as the aid required from the British friends for the economic reforms in our country in a way that will enhance democracy and development in our country and encourage British investors to invest in Yemen, particularly in the free zone in Aden.

The message also deals with regional and international issues and developments of mutual interest.

Brother Lt. Gen. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih also received Italian Ambassador (Vitalino Nabolina), and asked him to convey a message to the Italian president. The message deals with bilateral relations and the fields of Yemeni-Italian cooperation as well as the aid Italy is extending to our country's economic reform program in order to consolidate democracy and development in our country.

The message also deals with the opportunities available for Italian investors to invest in our country in a way that will achieve the common interests and mutual benefit of both countries. The message also discusses some regional and international issues and developments of common interest.

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Tariq 'Aziz Denies Readiness To Accept 986

LD0506130995 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1130 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received] Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz rejected media reports that during his present visit to Moscow he will report the Iraqi Government's agreement to implement Security Council Resolution 986 which allows Iraq to sell a limited quantity of its oil, the Ekho Moskvy radio station learned from sources in the Iraqi Embassy.

"There is no basis at all to this report," Tariq 'Aziz said, "as Iraq has already rejected this resolution, which infringes its sovereignty and independence, and constitutes interference in its internal affairs."

"Iraq's position on this resolution remains unchanged. The only acceptable decision for Iraq is implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 and the full lifting of the embargo on the export of Iraqi oil without any additional conditions or limits," Tariq 'Aziz emphasized, "all the more so as Iraq has implemented all the UN Security Council's resolutions."

BABIL: Saddam 'Determined To Liberate Palestine'

JN0506152395 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper BABIL, published by 'Udayy [Saddam Husayn's son], has strongly attacked the Zionist entity. An editorial written recently by 'Udayy in BABIL says that his father Saddam is determined to liberate Palestine and kill the Jews. The editorial also contains other threats.

Western diplomats believe that the editorial published in 'Udayy's newspaper is an angry response to the Zionist officials' refusal to deal with the Saddam regime and their disregard of his proposals. Informed sources said that the Iraqi regime proposed to sell Iraqi oil to the Zionist state at cheap prices in exchange for normalization of relations. Also, Jordan's King Husayn exerted continuous efforts in this regard, but these efforts were received with coolness from the Zionist party.

Tehran 'Agents' Assassinate Kurdish Activists

MM0606090895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Kamran Qurrah Daghi: "Tehran 'Agents' Assassinate Iranian Oppositionists in Northern Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — Iraqi opposition sources in northern Iraq have told AL-HAYAH that Tehran agents last Friday assassinated two members of the Iranian Kurdish Toilers Party (Kumelah), which opposes the Iranian regime, in al-Sulaymaniyah.

They said that the two activists were 'Uthman Kayhani and 'Uthman Faraj and that the culprits were part of a subversive ring consisting of six members, all of them Iraqi Kurds. The security authorities in the city managed to arrest five of them and are looking for the sixth. They said that the leader of the ring, whose members admitted belonging to the Iranian security organ Ettala'at, was Jalal Mahmud and that the ring members who carried out the assassination were Nozad Rafiq and Omar 'Ali Karim. [passage omitted]

UN Confirms Defection of Iranian Helicopter Pilot

NC0306132295 Paris AFP in English 1303 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Irbil, Iraq, June 3 (AFP) — UN officials on Saturday [3 June] confirmed reports that an Iranian air force helicopter pilot defected to Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq and turned himself over to United Nations aid workers.

The pilot crashed his helicopter as he tried to land near UN offices in al-Sulaymaniyah after fleeing Iran on Wednesday, a senior UN offical told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The medical team from the UN Guards Contingent in Iraq rushed to aid the pilot after seeing him crash land on a barren hill near the UN headquarters in the city.

"Obviously the pilot wanted to land on UN property, but didn't manage. It looks like he was short of fuel, because he had to crash land," the official said.

The pilot was only slightly injured and has been put into the care of the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

The UNHCR coordinator for northern Iraq Canadian Pierre Vinet refused to comment to AFP or release any details of the pilot's identity or his escape from Iran.

In Baghdad a UN official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that "the pilot is currently in the UN office in al-Sulaymaniyah," in the west of the region. But refused to give any further details.

Al-Sulaymaniyah, which is under the control of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), has about a million residents and lies by air about 30 kilometres (19 miles) from the mountainous border with Iran.

The UN official said the escape was a delicate matter as the PUK, which is locked in a power sharing battle

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with its rival the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), is on good terms with Iran.

"There was no doubt that the PUK wanted to surrender the pilot to Iranian authorities. That is why we handed him over as quickly as possible to the UNHCR. Anyhow he was seeking political asylum."

A member of the PUK leadership, Fu'ad Ma'sum, told AFP that Iran had so far not made any inquiries about the pilot.

"But they will, as well as about the helicopter. We haven't decided what to tell Iran."

A statement from the the Baghdad-based Iranian opposition group People's Mujahedeen on Friday said the Iranian government had ordered its intelligence services to track down the pilot and kill him.

According to UN officials the helicopter was badly damaged and cannot be repaired in northern Iraq.

It is the second time that an Iranian pilot has escaped by helicopter from Iran to northern Iraq. The first incident was in 1993 when two pilots arrived by helicopter in al-Sulaymaniyah.

"One wanted to return to Iran which he did, the other is still here," Ma'sum said.

Kurds Say 200 Turkish Troops Deployed in North

NC0506162895 Paris AFP in English 1604 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salah al-Din, Iraq, June 5 (AFP) — The Turkish army has deployed 200 soldiers in northern Iraq to stop PKK separatist guerrillas from infiltrating Turkey, an Iraqi Kurdish party said Monday [5 June].

"We have information that around 200 Turkish soldiers crossed the border a few days ago and entered a remote border area which is strategically vital for the PKK," a Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) spokesman said.

"They have erected half a dozen positions," in the triangle where the Turkish, Iraqi and Iranian borders meet, he told AFP.

"The area which the Turks entered is very difficult, a real guerrilla area. Obviously they hope they can cut off the PKK's route from Iran," said the spokesman, adding that the KDP had protested to Ankara over the deployment.

The Turkish army on March 20 sent 35,000 troops into northern Iraq, which is controlled by Iraqi Kurds in defiance of Baghdad, in a huge operation against the PKK, or Kurdistan Workers' Party. The operation ended on May 2.

An Iraqi parliamentary delegation held talks in Ankara on Monday, ahead of a vote in the Turkish parliament on renewal of a mandate for an allied force based in the southeast of the country to patrol the skies of northern Iraq.

Allied warplanes have since 1991 enforced a "no-fly zone" for Iraqi aircraft as protection for the Kurds. Their mandate is due to run out on June 30.

'Saddam's Commandos' Hold Parade for Saddam

95LH0171A Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 30 Apr 95 p 3

[Unattributed article: "On Behalf of Leader President, Adi Saddam Husayn Sponsors Birthday Parade of Saddam's Fida'iyi' Units"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the auspices of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God keep him, a parade was held yesterday morning by Saddam's Fida'iyi [Saddam's Commando] units at a big military ceremony in which the four graduate groups of Saddam's Commandos participated. The parade was to celebrate President Saddam Husayn's blessed birth.

The leader president delegated Adi Saddam Husayn to attend the ceremony. Upon the arrival of the representative of His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn, an Army band played the republican anthem and the ceremony was inaugurated with the recitation of Koran verses and Surat al-Fatihah to invoke mercy for the souls of Iraq's martyrs, martyrs of the Arab nation.

Saddam's Commandos' big parade began when the parade commander, carrying the sword of the "Mother of all Battles" and accompanied by a motorcycle troop, presented himself before the review stand to request permission from the leader president's representative to begin the parade.

Ceremonies were conducted to award Saddam's Commando units their banners: the banners for martyred hero Adnan Khayrallah Brigade, al-Qadisiyah Brigade, Mother of All Battles Brigade, and al-Nida' Brigade.

The representative of his excellency the leader president awarded the banners to representatives of the aforementioned units with military edicts and then returned to the review stand to review the parade. The parade was led by the staff colonel in charge of the parade in front of the units, surrounded by a motorcycle troop and followed by the banner of the brave Saddam's Commandos, a troop carrying Iraqi banners, the emblem of the Republic of Iraq, and a huge picture of his excellency the leader president, may God keep him, carried on the shoulders of a Saddam's Commando detachment.

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This picture was followed by troops carrying Arab flags. Meanwhile, helicopters flew over the parade field in formations, expressing the eagles' salute to his excellency representative of the leader president and to the guests, who included cabinet ministers, prominent government and party officials, and high-ranking Armed Forces officers. A number of paratroopers belonging to Saddam's Commando units parachuted in front of the review stand while carrying the picture of the beloved leader president.

While the site was preparing for the arrival of the parading brigades, Baghdad high school girls were waving their greetings, carrying sunflowers, and reflecting women's struggling role in supporting men at times of war and peace.

An infantry troop from Saddam's Commandos belonging to the brigade that bears the name of martyr Adnan Khayrallah, one of Iraq's swords and its bright stars, proceeded to the review stand. The magnificence and majesty of the scene opened the file of this unique combat experiment. On 7 October 1994, Saddam's Commandos were formed to protect the people, the country, and the dignity and honor of the nation, which consists of all of society's segments, including employees, students, workers, and bread winners at all levels.

A second unit of Saddam's Commandos belonging to al-Qadisiyah Brigade, which carries a bright name in the past and present life of Arabs and Muslims who do not fear battle and who never accept injustice, then passed before the review stand.

The representative of His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn then reviewed a Mother of All Battles unit composed of paratroopers and divers who ran in front of the stand repeating chants of martyrdom and victory and singing patriotic songs of heroic blitzkrieg forces on land and at sea, as well as the patriotic songs of Saddam's Commandos. The parade commander stood next to Adi Saddam Husayn, returning the salute of the troops who marched in tight, cohesive, and successive formations to salute the representative of his excellency the leader president, may God watch over him.

Military bands shared the parade with Saddam's Commandos, presenting formations which reflected a portrait of Saddam's Commandos. Saddam's Cubs, which are new units comprised of children aged 9-15 and trained by a number of retired officers chosen for the purpose, demanded to participate with their brothers the lions in their big military parade on the anniversary of the blessed birthday. Transports carrying various kinds of tanks, armored troop carriers, and transports carrying destroyed vehicles listed as vehicles out of service then marched in the parade. This was tantamount to declaring the campaign to embody the leader's appeal. Leader President Saddam Husayn made his appeal at the 12th cabinet session on 25 March 1995. He addressed the cabinet ministers directly and every honorable and responsible citizen in the country with the following words: "It is your duty to uproot the state of weakness and to develop the model." Mr. Adi Saddam Husayn then adopted a campaign that he has called the Leader's Appeal Campaign, whose objective is to repair a large number of tanks, armored troop carriers, and vehicles and destroyed weapons classified as out-of-service weapons — weapons that equal the power of an armored brigade — and to restore them to service with high efficiency. Mr. Qasi Saddam Husayn, director of the Special Security Agency and supervisor of the Republican Guard Secretariat, has also participated in this campaign by securing all the needed requirements for transportation and repair work and by providing officers to take charge of followup and organizational affairs. The good sons of Iraq's great army have also participated, especially men of the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Corps, who have managed to restore these weapons to service with a unique capability that has distinguished Iraq's citizens in the battle of struggle and development. The objective of parading the destroyed weapons was to familiarize the sons of our great people with the efforts exerted to repair and restore them to service after they had been turned into a heap of destroyed metal. Some of the destroyed weapons had been used for target shooting.

Al-Nida' Brigade then paraded before the review stand. This brigade reflects the good efforts exerted in the campaign to embody the leader's appeal to restore tanks, carriers, and weapons and to return them to service. The brigade was preceded by an Iraqi Cavalry troop.

Large groups of BTR-60's, armored troop carriers restored to service after being repaired as part of the campaign to embody the leader's appeal, then passed before the review stand. A battalion of BT-76 tanks — which, like the BTR's, had been classified as out of service and have been restored with high capability — also passed before the review stand. Parading before the review stand was also a company of TU-55 tanks which had been previously used for target shooting, cannibalized, and turned into a metal heap. But Iraq's sons have restored life to these tanks and have made them fit to be used anew. A DY-30 field artillery battalion then passed before the review stand, followed by Santana tows carrying antiaircraft guns. It is to be noted that all these tows and their guns had been destroyed and have been repaired and reused. These tows were followed by KAZ-66 tows carrying a troop of Saddam's Commando divers. These tows have also

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been restored and returned to service. Afterward, all formations lined up in front of the review stand, led by infantry units and flanked by a al-Nida' Brigade armored units in an awe-striking formation.

Ilyuchin aircraft flew over the parade site at an elevation of 800 meters and a speed of 350 km an hour. They carried commandos who parachuted in two stages, ready for combat.

The ceremonies to award the Dhu-al-Fiqar sword, the sword of Imam Ali Bin Abi-Talib, may God be pleased with him, to His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn were then started.

Four commandos, carrying the sword on a broad support, presented it to the representative of his excellency the leader president. Addressing him, they said, "Sir, this is a model of the sword of your grandfather, Imam Ali Bin Abi-Talib, may God be pleased with him. This is the Dhu-al-Fiqar sword. It has the same dimensions of the original sword, as documented in confirmed and approved historical references. It has been made by your brothers, Saddam's Commandos, from remains of the devastating weapons of the 30-state aggression. It has been made by the hands of the troops of rightness, the troops of Iraq and of the Republican Guard. The remains were brought from the battlefield of al-Nasiriyah saga and of the great confrontation — the battlefield of the immortal Mother of All Battles. We present it as a gift to His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and keep him and give him a long life, on the occasion of his blessed birthday. We thank you for the honor of receiving and delivering it to his excellency."

The representative of his excellency the leader president received Dhu-al-Fiqar sword, with a manuscript written on natural parchment that stated the following:

"In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful:

"If God helps you, none can overcome you; [Koran 3:160]

"Historians disagree as to the source of this sword. Some say that God sent it, made of the leaves of paradise. Others says God, may He be praised and exalted, sent it from heaven. It has been said that it was made in Yemen and that it was called Dhu-al-Fiqar because it had in its middle a design containing 18 small vertebrae.

"Whatever the differing opinions, this sword was held by the right hand of a man who stood with rightness and who put greater distance between right and falsehood, between darkness and light. That right hand was the hand of Imam Ali Bin Abi-Talib, may God be pleased with him.

"You, Saddam, are his grandson and the first man to deserve to hold this sword in his right hand in order to put an even greater distance between rightness and falsehood.

"This sword was made from the hull of a destroyed U.S. tank, and God is the giver of success."

Saddam's Commandos from the various units then reiterated an oath in which they said:

"In the name of God, of the homeland, of the leader, of the patient and struggling people, of the martyrs, and of all martyrdom processions, we, Saddam's Commandos, swear that we will keep our rifles lofty and proud. We swear before the struggler leader that our path is the same, our goal the same, and our fate the same. We are his men for the crossing. Each martyr among us will follow the path of another martyr, and may God be witness to what we say."

The republican anthem was then played to mark conclusion of the parade. Adi Saddam Husayn, the representative of his excellency the leader president, then took his leave of the attending gentlemen and departed the parade grounds.

Baghdad Securities Market Manager Interviewed

95LH0123A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Mar 95 p 3

[Interview with Subayh Hasan al-Dulaymi, Baghdad Securities Market general manager, by Huda Jasim; place and date not given: "How To Deal With Baghdad Securities Market; How To Purchase Company Stocks; Market General Manager: Influence of Fictional Companies Has Ended"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Baghdad Securities Market is a joint-stock public-interest company founded in accordance with law No. 24 of 1991 to regulate and control the exchange of securities so as to serve the national economy. However, many are not aware of the nature of this market, of the means to deal with it, of its economic feasibility, and of its investment benefits. This interview with Subayh Hasan al-Dulaymi, the market general manager, contains a review of the market activities and familiarizes the citizen with the methods of dealing through the market.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] How are exchange transactions conducted in the market?

[Dulaymi] Exchange is conducted at the market lobby on Saturdays and Tuesdays through public auction. When exchange is concluded, a daily leaflet is issued, disseminated to all parties concerned, and distributed inside the market. Purchase and sale transactions are

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conducted by a process in which each of the selling and purchasing middlemen sets the price that suits him. When they agree on a price, a contract is concluded and submitted to the lobby official to be entered into the computer. On the following day, the two sides settle their accounts and the contracts are submitted to the market management, which in turn delivers them in accordance with special lists to company representatives accredited at the market. The company concerned then issues a stock certificate in the name of the new buyer. This certificate is delivered to the market so it will deliver it to the purchasing middleman who, in turn, delivers it to the investors.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] How can the ordinary citizen purchase stocks?

[Dulaymi] This can be done in two ways: First, subscription to the foundation of new companies, in which case the price is one dinar per share.

Second, when the conditions stipulated by the market law are met, companies offer their shares for sale,after submitting the required documents. They set their share prices according to supply and demand and to a company's activity and profits.

In the lobby, a middleman offers what stock he has for sale on the bulletins set aside for companies, considering that each company has its bulletin and sets the acceptable price.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] What is the number of companies participating in the market,and what is the latest exchange sum?

[Dulaymi] The number is 81 companies. Upon the start of work in the market on 13 April 1992, the total sum exchanged amounted to 143,000 dinars and the total number of shares was 13,000.

In the latest session, the sum amounted to 90 million dinars and the number of shares to 6.8 million shares.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] In your opinion, how successful is the operation and what is the impact of the emergence of some fictional companies on the market activity?

[Dulaymi] The market was founded on well-studied scientific bases, and it has gained the personal care of his excellency, the leader president, may God save and protect him. Moreover, the Council of Ministers has issued a decree exempting stock exchange profits from taxes. This has greatly contributed to the success of the market experiment.

At the conference of the Arab Stock Exchange Markets Union, held in April 1994, the participants were surprised by the presentation we made on the Baghdad Market and its accomplishments.

As for fictional companies, they greatly affected the market's work. People proceeded to deposit their money with them. However, conditions are different now that these companies' manipulation of the citizens' money and of the national economy has been exposed. The market has recovered, enhancing its activity to an even higher level than in the past with the real investment it brings about and with the guarantees it provides for investors' rights.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] How do you protect your employees from committing errors in dealings with the citizens?

[Dulaymi] Our employees are selected from among people with good educational qualifications. We rely for all market activities on computers, without the help of any other party. The market's Executive Board has established a special system of incentives involving the distribution of a part of the profits to the employees and the payment of an additional salary every four months. We have trained our employees on how to deal with the citizen soundly and without any delay or bureaucratic complexities.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] To what extent has the market contributed to bolstering the national economy?

[Dulaymi] The market channels citizens' savings toward participation in the establishment of industrial, commercial, and service companies. Numerous such companies have been established, and it would not have been possible to establish them without gathering these savings. This constitutes a support for the national economy and a rewarding investment for capital owners.

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Rabin, Peres Comment on Palestinian Track

TA0606081495 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Jun 95 p 2

[Report by Arye Dayan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] At the end of his address to the Labor Party Central Committee convention yesterday, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres referred to the state of the negotiations with the Palestinians, saying that those who eulogized the Oslo process will have to find a new story now. "The eulogy was premature," he said.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who addressed the convention before Peres, said that the purpose of the negotiations with the Palestinians is to bring about the establishment of a Palestinian entity that will live peacefully beside Israel. "We will not return to the 1967 borders," the prime minister said, "but we will recognize a Palestinian entity living peacefully beside us on most — but not all — of the territory of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Neither 'Arafat nor al-Asad nor al-Hirawi are the enemies of peace. We have an argument with them, but they want peace. The enemies of peace are Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, Hizballah, and Iran. We must make that clear to ourselves," he stated. [passage omitted]

[A report by Menahem Rahat on page 11 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 6 June adds that the convention adopted the following resolution: "The Labor Party convention stands behind the Israeli Government and its policy in its efforts to attain peace and security for the State of Israel and its inhabitants."]

Peres: Chance of Meeting 1 Jul Deadline Exists

TA0506152495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 3 Jun 95

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by 'Adi Talmor on 3 June; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Talmor] Mr. Peres, this morning the PLO leaders again threatened that the intifadah in the territories would resume if an agreement with them is not signed by 1 July. How do you respond to those threats?

[Peres] Who are those PLO leaders?

[Talmor] In this case it was Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh in Tunis.

[Peres] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has a big mouth. He has a slick tongue, which I do not know what he uses for except to shoot off his mouth. They cannot threaten us, and whatever we do is not because somebody threatens us. Such talk is empty and disgraceful and serves no cause or purpose. On their side, just as on our side, there are a lot of words, words, words, words.

[Talmor] What is the state of the talks with the Palestinians? Is there a chance that we will reach an agreement by 1 July?

[Peres] The chance definitely exists. Not all the problems have been solved yet, particularly the weighty and real ones, but that was also the case in Oslo. I hope we will find a solution. One is not yet available, but there is a chance.

[Talmor] We thank you very much. Have a nice day.

Rabin Considering Egypt-U.S.-Israel Summit

TA0606080795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Jun 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Egypt and the U.S. have suggested a Cairo meeting between president Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and Secretary of State Warren Christopher later this week.

Senior officials in Jerusalem said the idea is transparently designed to bolster Egypt's image at a time when Congress is scrutinizing Cairo's $2.1 billion in foreign aid.

A report erroneously asserting that the meeting had already been agreed upon appeared in Egypt yesterday.

Senior officials said Rabin is still considering the utility of such a meeting. He was said to be unhappy that Egypt leaked the idea before Israel could reply.

They said that such a meeting may depend on tomorrow's visit to Cairo by U.S. special Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross.

Meanwhile, Ross met with Rabin and other senior officials to discuss issues tied to Golan-related security arrangements before Christopher's arrival on Thursday.

Ross will also hold meetings in Damascus today in an effort to ensure that talks are focused when senior Israeli and Syrian military officers meet in Washington at the end of the month.

Sarid Comments on Palestinian State, Syrian Track

JN0506200595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Jun 95

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-Rabbuh in Jerusalem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid has said that establishing a Palestinian state is inevitable and is taken for granted, and that any

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authority resulting from the elections will be a legitimate and sovereign authority even if it does not come into being, whether we like it or not.

Sarid's remarks were made during a meeting with a number of foreign and Palestinian newspaper correspondents at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Jerusalem at noon today at the invitation of the Israeli Government Press Office.

The Israeli minister expressed optimism over his government's commitment to implementing the second phase of the Oslo agreement, represented by redeployment and legislative elections, by 1 July. He indicated that following these elections, all powers will be transferred to the National Authority Council except for security issues. He noted that foreign affairs were not included in the Oslo agreement, although the Palestinian National Authority is following a foreign policy away from the Israeli authorities which chose not to intervene.

Asked about the expropriation of Palestinian lands in Jerusalem, Sarid said the decision to freeze the expropriation of these lands is a long-term decision. He asserted that the ministerial committee set up to follow up on the expropriations will not meet in the near future.

Regarding the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, Sarid pointed out that if both sides agree on a specific and clear timetable, Israel will be ready for a deep and painful withdrawal from the Golan Heights and will ensure appropriate security arrangements and normalization of relations in addition to a timetable on mutual withdrawals to the international borders and not to the 4 June 1967 lines.

Within the same context, it has been learned from informed Israeli sources that the Syrian-Israeli negotiations have achieved much progress after Israel agreed in principle on the stationing of Syrian forces on the peak of al-Jurmuq mountain in order to operate a Syrian early warning station in return for Syrian permission to continue the Israeli supervision of an early warning station on the peak of Mount Hermon.

Based on this development, it has become certain that a meeting on the level of chiefs of staff will be held in Washington in the middle of next month. The meeting will be attended on the Israeli side by Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq and on the Syrian side by Major General Hikmat al-Shihabi.

Jerusalem Radio Reports Sarid Remarks

TA0506153895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid says negotiations between Israel and Syria will not come at the expense of peace talks with the Palestinians.

Sarid also said there is no chance the decision to freeze land expropriations in East Jerusalem will be reversed.

He was speaking to Israeli, Arab, and Palestinian newspaper editors.

Beilin Labor Circle Suggests Additions to Platform

TA0506151095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Jun 95 p A4

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Yosi Beilin, deputy foreign minister, has said that the Golan Heights is not "the eyes of the state." At most, it is the "eyeglasses of the state" whose lenses can be replaced. According to him, a security arrangement can allow Israel to get off the Golan Heights without taking risks, which could provide Israel with a strategic solution.

Speaking at the Hakfar Hayaroq Forum in Ramat Ef'al, Beilin also said he favors advancing the discussions on the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians.

Labor Secretary General Nisim Zvili said that the party must return to the center of the political map if it wants to win the elections and stay in power to continue the political process. Zvili said that Labor must make it clear to the public that it is working for a political process, but has red lines which are security arrangements for Israel.

Zvili added that he believes that the political process will not end before the 1996 elections and cautioned party activists against "showing impatience and a desire to attain quick results because there are no shortcuts in the political process. No matter how good our intentions may be, we will not be able to complete the political process in two years. We will have to stay in power for another term to complete it," he said.

Following are some of the resolutions Hakfar Hayaroq Forum conference made, some of which will be raised as suggestions to amend the party platform for the 1996 elections:

— Not to reject the establishment of a Palestinian state as part of the permanent solution for the Palestinians.

— To quickly move to discussing the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians. The forum also called

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on the government to do everything it can to complete the negotiations on the interim arrangement by 1 July.

— The forum also suggests that, in the framework of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the territories, the government evacuate settlements that constitute a security burden and a point of friction with the Palestinian population. The forum was referring to Netzarim, Kfar Darom, the Jewish settlers in Hebron, and a series of additional settlements in the West Bank.

— Jerusalem will remain united, but every arrangement regarding Jerusalem "will take the interests of the Palestinian population into account while protecting the city's status and the freedom of worship for the three religions."

— Hakfar Hayaroq Forum is in favor of holding a referendum for the ratification of the peace agreement with Syria. At the same time, the forum notes that if an agreement is not forged by the end of 1995, the people will make the decision through the elections.

SHAS Reportedly May Support Golan Withdrawal

TA0506175795 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today received support from unexpected quarters: SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] leader Arye Der'i hinted today that his party will support a withdrawal from the Golan in exchange for peace, regardless of whether it is in the opposition or in the coalition. Here is what Der'i told our correspondent Rafi Reshef:

[Begin Der'i recording] SHAS abides by the ruling of Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef under which territory can be ceded for the sake of peace in order to avert loss of life. This ruling has not changed, regardless of whether SHAS is in the opposition or in the coalition. The question is what sort of arrangement will be presented to us and what the security situation will be then. I think we will have to wait, but we are not in opposition to a peace process. [end recording]

NRP Plans New Golan Heights Settlement

TA0506084395 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Jun 95 p 5

[Report by Eytan Glikman]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] is about to set up a new settlement on the Golan Heights in response to the government decision to uproot one settlement.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT has learned that the NRP faction heads, who visited Moshav Aloney Habashan last week, decided that the new settlement will probably be set up in the coming month, apparently east of Aloney Habashan, and will join the seven NRP settlements on the Golan.

"We are preparing a surprise for Rabin and his government," faction representatives said. "The government intends to remove one settlement even before it makes an agreement with Syria. Therefore, we in the NRP will see to it that another settlement appears on the map to make things even harder on the government."

Knesset Member Sha'ul Yahalom added: "We held a working session in Aloney Habashan and decided to quickly set up a new settlement to bolster the NRP settlements on the Golan. We will set it up as soon as we receive the proper Jewish Agency authorization and the right piece of land. The settlement nucleus will be made up of yeshiva students from all over Israel."

It has further been learned that additional yeshiva students will soon move to the Golan Heights to bolster Aloney Habashan. Golan residents will hold a rally at Kibbutz Elrom tomorrow in solidarity with the kibbutz residents and against the government's intention to uproot a Golan settlement.

Netanyahu Presents Primary System; Balloting Started

TA0506184995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The balloting has started in the Likud Central Committee at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds. The members can vote on Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu's proposal on the system to elect Likud Knesset candidates, but they cannot vote for compromise proposals, such as those of Beni Begin and Gid'on Pat.

In his opening speech, Netanyahu presented his system of primaries, which is based on ending reserved slots for specific individuals, and expressed his opposition to camps within the party. Either we destroy the camps or they will destroy the Likud, Netanyahu said. He sharply attacked David Levi and detailed his repeated abortive efforts to hold a dialogue with Levi. He said Levi is challenging the entire Likud movement.

David Levi said that he would announce his future moves only after the Central Committee has voted, but he said he does not have any illusions about the decision. He called Netanyahu's address an unbridled, inflammatory speech of the worst kind. Netanyahu used terms of hatred based on facts which are the fruit of his wild fantasies, Levi said. He recalled that Netanyahu

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had a decisive role in the Likud's difficult condition on the eve of the general elections. Did you murder and then inherit through actions and preaching, Levi asked, and accused Netanyahu of deception because instead of leading and trying to unite forces he harmed the Likud and its chances of winning the Knesset elections and instilled hatred among the members. Levi referred to the atmosphere of fear in the party and the trampling of those who tried to express a different view. He attacked those who, he said, showed restraint despite these actions and kept mum for months and years while agreeing to sacrifice their friends in order to reach positions of power at any price.

Likud Central Committee Chairman Maxim Levi said that the reality forced his brother to wait until today although it was clear to him that a scheme was being contrived to oust him from the movement. David Levi expected a speech from the leader of a movement, but all he heard from Netanyahu was an inflammatory speech by an amateur. Maxim Levi also said that David Levi will make his decision tonight on whether to remain in the Likud or quit.

Netanyahu's spokesman told our correspondent Yo'el Nir that Netanyahu will not respond to David Levi's remarks at this stage.

Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin said that under these conditions it is difficult to hold a proper debate which would lead to compromise and agreement. He said democracy is not decided only by a majority decision, but through agreement and compromise. Still, MK Begin criticized Levi's threat to quit, which came instead of an effort to persuade the members about the flaws in Netanyahu's proposal. He said there was no need to make haste and that time should have been allotted to digest the proposals and discuss them.

Netanyahu Wins 'Sweeping Victory'

TA0606053095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu sustained a sweeping victory last night, as the party Central Committee overwhelmingly approved the primary system backed by him and opposed by David Levi. Netanyahu's proposal won 69 percent support in the Likud. A proposal by MK [Knesset Member] Beni Begin won 21 percent of support, while one by Me'ir Shitrit got 7 percent.

Responding to the vote, David Levi said he and his supporters had been pushed out of the party. Levi and most of his supporters boycotted last night's Central Committee meeting. Levi did not announce that he was leaving the Likud, but said he would convene a meeting in two weeks time to decide how to respond to the Central Committee decision.

[Begin correspondent Alan Ben-'Ami recording] David Levi called it a rigged game. He boycotted the Central Committee meeting last night and accused Likud leader Bibi Netanyahu of brutally pushing a proposal for choosing the party candidates for the next general elections that would ensure that Levi supporters would be cut down and that Netanyahu would gain a dictator's control of the party. Levi called on his supporters to join him and boycott the Central Committee meeting that was to decide the issue. Most did, but it was clear already at the start of the evening that Netanyahu was the favorite among the vast majority of the more than 2,000 committee members who turned up.

Three Likud MK's — Beni Begin, Me'ir Shitrit, and Gid'on Pat — put forward proposals to postpone the vote for another two or three weeks and try to reach a compromise that would satisfy everyone, but they were voted down eventually. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Labor Rejects Proposal To Defer Direct Elections Bill

TA0506145795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Labor Convention has rejected Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin's proposal to put off the implementation of the direct elections bill by a large majority in an open ballot. The prime minister said that for the party to discuss this matter at such a crucial juncture in the peace process would be a terrible mistake.

Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin had earlier asked his opponents not to exploit the peace issue in order to preclude a discussion of the subject. Beilin stressed that any decision made by the party would be binding on all its members.

Report on PRC Arms Sales Said To Ease U.S. Pressure

TA0606085495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jun 95 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will soon be called upon to decide on the future of Israel's ties with China. A senior Israeli official will leave for Beijing next month to attend the periodic cooperation discussions. The Chinese would like to buy advanced technologies for military and civilian use from

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Israel, but the United States has been pressuring it not to sell.

A few months ago, U.S. officials explained to their Israeli counterparts that they were worried about the PRC becoming a modern technological superpower with Israeli know-how. Earlier, the Americans claimed that Israel had made unauthorized sales to China of military technology received from the United States. The current claims refer to a project to develop a new Chinese jet fighter with Israeli assistance.

Rabin said in the past that Israel had sold China technologies of the Lavi project. The Americans argued that the Lavi technologies had been developed with U.S. know-how. Israel denied the allegations, and they were referred to the joint committee on technology transfers set up two years ago.

Israel recently drafted a detailed report in response to the U.S. claims, which noted that the scope of security ties with China was not big. The document sent to the State Department stated that over a period of three years, from 1992 until the end of 1994, Israeli arms sales to China totaled $31.5 million and that only in one of those years did the total sum of sales exceed $10 million. Israeli sources said that the detailed response somewhat eased the pressure. According to them, the United States itself sells advanced aviation technology to China as part of a project to build a civilian passenger plane.

According to U.S. sources, President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher are not interested in a confrontation with Israel over the arms sales to China and want relations with Israel to focus on the key issue of promoting the peace process. Some administration officials, however, are going ahead with the leaks and allegations against Israel over its ties with China.

The foreign professional press dealing with military issues has published numerous reports about close Israeli-Chinese cooperation in arms development. The monthly INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE REVIEW claimed that Israel expanded its defense ties with China after the two countries established diplomatic relations in January 1992 and that it has been assisting nuclear experiments in China through the supply of measuring and monitoring equipment.

JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY reported that Israel has been helping China develop an advanced submarine and upgrade Russian-made submarines. According to this magazine, the Israeli military attache in Beijing is an Israeli Navy officer who was involved in the development of the Israeli submarine project.

Denying the reports about large arms deals with China, Israeli sources said: "We wish we could sell to the Chinese. The problem is not that we do not want to sell to them but that they are in no hurry to buy."

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Further on Talks Between King, Germany's Kohl

JN0506170695 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl held talks in the al-Baqurah area at noon today on ways of boosting bilateral economic relations. During the meeting, which was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, and other officials from both sides, Chancellor Kohl stressed Jordan's key role in the region. He also paid tribute to his majesty's courage and his efforts to achieve regional peace and stability. Mr. Kohl reiterated Bonn's commitment to supporting Jordan and contributing to the kingdom's economic projects in order to consolidate the foundations of peace and make the people feel its dividends.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, his royal highness the crown prince paid tribute to Chancellor Kohl's leading role. He noted that his presence at the site to speak about such vital issues as water would inevitably have direct influence on European meetings due in the next few weeks. Prince Hasan said Jordan was satisfied with the role of Germany and Europe on the Middle East for the welfare and security of the region. He said the orientation to rehabilitate the economies of the Middle East was constructive. Prince Hasan cited the Jordanian example of economic restructuring and forging close cooperation with the EU and Japan. He said this approach would change the tone about unemployment and poverty to that of full economic employment not only with regard to Jordan, but involving a vast area spanning from Morocco to Turkey and involving 250 million people.

After the meeting in al-Baqurah, his majesty the king, his royal highness the crown prince, and other Jordanian officials bade farewell to Chancellor Kohl and his delegation and they left for Israel at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan.

Paper: Tripartite Summit Embodies 'Commitment' to Peace

JN0606101095 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Jun 95 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "al-Baqurah Tripartite Summit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The tripartite summit that was held in the al-Baqurah area yesterday — in a tent over which the Jordanian flag was fluttering — has more than one meaning, and was not a mere symbolic gathering. Moreover, it constituted more important than a political event at the center of domestic, regional, and international attention. The fact that His Majesty King Husayn hosted German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on Jordanian land recovered from Israel is a practical and concrete embodiment of the continuation of the peace process, which will inevitably realize its ultimate goals on all tracks. It is also proof that peace itself has gained substance that can be felt by the region's peoples, who are the target of this peace process.

Undoubtedly, the German chancellor's participation in this summit, which was held in an area where regional water projects are planned to be established in the near future, has given special importance to this unique meeting. It was also a practical embodiment of the commitment by Germany and the European Union members to give substance to peace and turn it into material gains for the region's peoples.

King Husayn has emphasized Jordan's determination to turn the peace treaty signed with Israel into a cornerstone of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. This emphasis represents an unwavering Jordanian commitment to proceed along this road. We hope that in the final analysis all parties concerned will honor their obligations so that we can together establish a peace which we hope future generations will approve of and defend, along with the tangible benefits it will bring.

In light of all this, we attach great importance to the al- Baqurah summit, which we deem as a step that embodies a joint commitment to take further strides along the path for which we have all opted for the benefit of the region's peoples. It is time that people in the region see genuine peace founded on justice, openness, and cooperation; lead a life free from tension, conflicts, and threats; and start rebuilding the future of their generations in an atmosphere of peace, freedom, democracy, and social progress.

Israel Offering 'Huge' Sums to Jerusalem Landowners

JN0606092695 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 5 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The British newspaper, THE INDEPENDENT, has said that Israeli officials are offering huge amounts of money to Jerusalem citizens residing in Jordan in return for their properties and rights in the holy city.

The newspaper said meetings are held at luxury Jordanian hotels between representatives of Israeli settlers and Palestinians who own property in Jerusalem to lure them into selling their real estate by offering millions of

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dollars to buy buildings in Arab Jerusalem, especially those close to al-Aqsa Mosque.

The newspaper said the settlers are offering lucrative financial incentives to a number of young Jordanians to help them search for owners of real estate in Jerusalem. It is said that the meetings and deals take place at one of Amman's main hotels.

The newspaper quoted one of those dealing with the Zionists as saying: The Jewish settlers do not pay for these properties from their private money, but the money is paid from the Israeli Government's budget. He added: We use illegal means to seize these properties.

The newspaper concluded by saying that the secret land sales that take place in Jordan will aggravate the situation and increase the popular and parliamentary doubts about Israel's intentions.

Joint Palestinian Business Meeting Opens in Amman

JN0506202395 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 5 Jun 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] About 400 Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen met in Amman to discuss development plans in the post-peace era in the region. Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir inaugurated the conference. He said the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is now on its right course through a host of cooperation agreements which have been concluded so far.

The prime minister said in the current peace-building era, Jordan is now seeking to achieve more economic openness, citing the country's plans to join GATT agreement and a partnership agreement with Europe. The Jordanian-Palestinian conference groups businessmen from the two sides' private sectors. [passage omitted]

'Sources' Note 'Large Scale' Arrest Campaign

Irbid Group's Leaders Detained

JN0606103995 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 5 Jun 95 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD has learned that there has been a large-scale arrest campaign against an Irbid-based Islamic group called the Islamic Restoration Movement [harakat al-tajdid al-islami].

Informed sources have said that most of the group's leaders, headed by Shaykh Sabir Muqbil "Abu-Ashraf," were arrested during the campaign. The sources said that Shaykh Muqbil had seceded from the al-Tabligh [conveyance of Islamic message] Group against the backdrop of his demand for a pro-Iraq stand during the Gulf crisis. He then started to form the new group. A considerable number of Jordanians who were expelled from Kuwait have joined the group.

The sources claimed that weapons were found in the possession of the group's leaders and members when their houses were raided during the arrest campaign.

JDPUP Members Arrested

JN0606094995 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 5 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD has learned that the security organs have launched an arrest campaign among leftist ranks over the past few days.

These organs arrested Ahmad Matar, from al-Hashimi al-Shimali; Bassam Hamdan Abu-Za'nun, from al-Zarqa'; and Mahmud Nasr'allah, from al-Rusayfah. The three are members of the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party [JDPUP].

The security organs arrested Khalil al-Jarjawi, a resident of al-Mahattah, late last month while on his way back from Syria. Al-Jarjawi is also a JDPUP supporter.

A JDPUP source expressed surprise at the arrests, and said the party has addressed a number of House of Representatives members and human rights organizations on this subject.

The Red Cross contacted al-Jarjawi's family and informed it that Khalil had been arrested. His family visited him, but do not know the charges leveled against him.

It is said that the security organs may interrogate one of those arrested on charges of affiliation with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Relatives and friends of the detainees expressed surprise at the arrests and said those arrested have not carried out any activities that violate Jordanian laws and regulations.

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President Outlines Plans for Discussions With Chirac

NC0606092895 Paris AFP in English 0904 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, June 6 (AFP)—President Ilyas al-Hirawi will seek French President Jacques Chirac's backing in the peace process and Lebanon's post-war economic revival when they hold talks in Paris on Wednesday [7 June].

Al-Hirawi, who will be accompanied by seven cabinet ministers, said he will urge Chirac to plead Lebanon's cause during talks the French president is set to have with US President Bill Clinton ahead of next week's G7 summit in Halifax.

"I hope that during their discussions Mr. Chirac and President Clinton will examine the situation in the Middle East, namely in Lebanon and Syria," al-Hirawi told AFP.

He hoped Chirac would insist with Clinton on the urgency for an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon in compliance with the 1978 UN Security Council Resolution 425.

"We will also discuss peace in the Middle East, our economic situation and the work we are undertaking to ensure that Lebanon remains a bridge between East and West," al-Hirawi said.

Al-Hirawi also confirmed that Lebanon and Syria will attend, alongside Israel, a conference on EU-Mediterranean cooperation in November in Barcelona.

"Why lose our chance to fill our place in the Mediterranean basin? I believe we must take advantage of it because after France at the head of the European Union, Spain and then Italy will hold the rotating (EU) presidency," he said.

Beirut and Damascus have been boycotting the Middle East multilateral talks, insisting first on progress in direct peace talks with Israel.

Lebanon coordinates its foreign policy with neighbouring Syria, a major power-broker in Lebanon where it also deploys 35,000 troops.

Lebanon, which was under French mandate since it gained independence in 1943, and France are linked by historic ties.

Several French firms have secured contracts in Lebanon's post-war multi-billion reconstruction scheme to rebuild the infrastructure destroyed in the 1975-1990 civil war.

In 1994, France exported goods to Lebanon worth 566 billion dollars and imported from Beirut products worth only 36 million dollars.

Al-Hariri Delivers Government Policy Statement

NC0506123395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0755 GMT 5 Jun 95

[Government policy statement by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri to the Chamber of Deputies in al-Najmah Square, Beirut—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed deputies: Our government stands before your dignified chamber raising the banner of work and solidarity and looking forward to close cooperation with the Chamber of Deputies in fulfilling the aspirations of the Lebanese people and working for the nation's needs, as the Chamber of Deputies and government do their work.

This government is for strengthening political and financial stability and emphasizing economic development and social balance. This is the fifth government under the new National Accord, which ended the war, laid the foundations of peace, and placed Lebanon on the path to development. The agreement that the Lebanese concluded in al-Ta'if, which is praised by the Arabs and the world, decisively settled the issue of Lebanon's identity and its political system. The National Accord Document ended tensions that had continued since independence, because it resolved the national identity issue and placed Lebanon constitutionally within its natural surroundings. This opened up new horizons, ended domestic polarization, and eased our Arab brothers' caution and apprehension. We are no longer torn between two negative attitudes that do not promote progress as much as they obstruct it. In addition, relations with the Arabs, particularly with Syria, are no longer contentious; instead, our goals became firm and our premises clear.

The former government went a long way in implementing the Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation and Coordination with the Arab Republic of Syria. We will continue promoting constructive cooperation, as embodied in bilateral agreements in various fields in the interest of the two fraternal Arab countries, particularly in Lebanon's interest in openness, prosperity, and security. We will continue to cooperate and coordinate with Syria on the negotiations we both want on implementing the UN resolutions so we can liberate our land and reach a fair, comprehensive, and permanent peace, one that safeguards our national existence and restores our sovereignty over all our territories.

Esteemed deputies: The historic settlement embodied in the National Accord Document opened up the way

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for building a state to which the Lebanese people have long aspired and for establishing a political system that accommodates all segments of society. The war and its tragedies demonstrated that there is no alternative to the state and its legislative institutions, a state for all Lebanese that safeguards the homeland and citizens. An impregnable political system is basically founded on respect for the principle of separation of powers and cooperation among the branches of government. We will work with you to build and strengthen this system, its stability, and prosperity. This means natural openness to the various forces and political trends operating within the framework of the Constitution.

Honorable deputies: Proceeding from this spirit, the government shares the dignified Chamber of Deputies' view of the question of the displaced persons as a central national issue. The true consolidation of the national accord, political tranquility, and socioeconomic progress will materialize with the return of the displaced persons, all of them, to their homes. Therefore, the government, like its predecessor, will give this topic its strict attention and care, stressing national solidarity over this central issue and the need to provide all the prerequisites for this return.

Honorable deputies: Lebanon's south and Western al-Biqa' continue to suffer from the Israeli occupation and repeated aggression. In the face of this, we will continue to insist on the implementation of the international resolutions, especially Resolution 425. Our right to resist the occupation will remain one of the national and political constants. Confronting the occupation by all available means is a right and a duty; a right recognized by the international charters and the human rights convention and a duty that obliges our government, like any government, to make available the needs and requirements for steadfastness. Hence comes our inalienable commitment, in deeds and not words, to bolster the links between the state institutions and our people in the south and Western al-Biqa', to give their needs—particularly their living, social, and health needs—the maximum degree of care and attention and to abort the enemy's attempts to link the occupied areas to its interests and designs.

On the external level, the government will spare no efforts to regain Lebanon's position at the international forums and its role as a venue for regional and international organizations.

Honorable deputies: The measures adopted to remedy the economic conditions have restored confidence in and stability to the Lebanese economy. They have also given the state the opportunity to proceed with the revitalization of the economic cycle by implementing development projects to eliminate the vestiges of war and develop the socioeconomic and living conditions on one hand and face future challenges and keep abreast of the wheel of progress on the other. The main economic objective today is to continue and to enhance economic and financial stability, implement development projects, and promote growth in the medium and long terms; activate the economy; and increase state revenue. This would help solve many of the economic and social problems facing Lebanon.

The development projects that the state has started will not bear their full fruits unless they are completed. Once accomplished, these projects will result in a positive impact on production activity, growth, price levels, and public services. Until then this stage, which seems difficult for citizens, requires the consolidation of all efforts to streamline the deficit in the state's budget by boosting revenue, cutting down on current expenditures, and stressing that any increase in current expenditures must be coupled by measures resulting in an equal increase in revenue.

A continued endeavor to secure resources to finance development projects in a comprehensive and balanced way remains a basic and vital issue. We need to develop and diversify the sources of financing, as this will ease current burdens and obligations and consequently reduce the current account deficit. This also is the best way to attract the capital available to the Lebanese at home and abroad.

One of the foundations of the government's policy regarding expatriates is to encourage and create investment opportunities to the Lebanese abroad and to place their capabilities in the service of Lebanon's national issues, especially the issues of liberation, reconstruction, and development. This policy will also employ the expatriates' financial, technical, and economic energies and expertise in the process of economic upsurge. The Ministry of Expatriates will also work to link the Lebanese worldwide with their motherland, solve the problems of expatriates, help them unite their ranks, and deepen cooperation and confidence between the Lebanese at home and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed deputies: The events witnessed by the country have resulted in low production, a general rise in prices, and a large decline in actual per capita income. This has negatively reflected the standard of living of the middle class and its role. Improving the Lebanese standard of living requires an increase in production and productivity, and this requires that financial and monetary stability be boosted and investment projects be established by the public and private sectors to activate the cycle of economy

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and create new job opportunities. Measures are needed to reduce prices by boosting competition, combating monopoly, reducing production cost, improving public services, and developing the infrastructure. Therefore, it is necessary at this stage to focus on the implementation and completion of projects, especially in the sectors of electricity, water, and telephones. Citizens should expect to sense some of the results of this work by the end of this year.

Esteemed deputies: One of our government's objectives, or indeed priorities, is to consolidate production sectors, especially in the fields of industry, tourism, and services, and to provide the necessary elements for developing these sectors in cooperation with the private sector and by activating the Bank of Industrial and Tourism Development and domestic and foreign trade and exports. The government also will work to encourage cooperative work and the small- and medium-size productive establishments of the private sector that help create new job opportunities for the Lebanese and boost the middle class.

The government also will turn special attention to agriculture by supporting investment and employment chances through the Agricultural Development Bank and by strengthening the Lebanese farmer's relation with his land, developing rural areas, ensuring strict respect for the agricultural agenda, and exporting agricultural surplus to the countries with which our trade balance is suffering a chronic and unjustified deficit. The government intends to establish a special fund to be financed by revenue from agricultural imports to encourage agricultural exports. The government also will turn full attention to manufacturing the surplus of agricultural products and will encourage productive and marketing agricultural cooperatives.

Among this government's tasks is the establishment of social security by addressing the economic difficulties of the people by mobilizing the utmost resources available in cooperation between the government and the representatives of the work force and production sector. To achieve this goal the government will seek to broaden the social security services; limit unemployment; create new job opportunities; and establish a social and economic council to embody the principle of solidarity among the productive forces, employers, and workers.

The government is concerned about emphasizing that it will bear in mind and pay attention to the various social demands. It will study these demands and address them without adversely affecting monetary and financial stability, real income, and the standard of living of the people.

Esteemed deputies: Out of faith that Lebanon's wealth lies in its people, the government will pay special attention to the education sector. We cannot build a cohesive, strong, unified, and democratic homeland that cherishes justice, equality, and human rights except through democratic education that has clear goals of equal opportunity and sound national upbringing focusing efforts on uniting the Lebanese. Thus, we will focus on the role of the schools, particularly the government schools, and on the need to enhance it. The government schools have a mission because they are the ideal place to merge the Lebanese in one crucible. The government schools are required to promote national spirit, as Lebanon is as much in need of national education as it is for academic education.

It goes without saying that the private schools play a basic role in Lebanese society. We uphold free education as outlined in the Constitution. The government stresses the need to enhance vocational and technical education, particularly in the government schools, and to promote and link it to academic education in the work market. The government will seek to coordinate activities of the ministries of education and of higher and technological education as part of a comprehensive and integrated plan aimed at promoting and modernizing curricula and qualifying teachers and school presidents, and highlighting the role of youths and sports in the plan.

The government believes that solving the educational problem requires responsible and rational dialogue among the various key education sectors and figures and their concerted efforts to promote the education sector. Promotion of education is ultimately the responsibility of all of us. Moreover, the government will continue its efforts to back creative, intellectual, and artistic production in all fields. It will respect the freedom of the intellectuals and artists in the interest of the homeland and our democratic society. The government will back the Lebanese university financially and academically and will pay attention to its independence by reviving the university council and the academic councils and will back plans to promote its laws and regulations. The government will continue its efforts to steer university specialization at Lebanese university and the private universities and link specialization to the needs of the market. The government will exert efforts to safeguard and promote heritage and archaeological sites.

Your Excellency speaker, esteemed deputies: A sound and clean environment is one of man's basic rights and safeguarding the environment is the responsibility of the central and local departments, societies, nongovernmental organizations, and citizens. Proceeding from these rules and considerations, the government

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will address the environment issue with all pertinent problems and complications. It will establish reserves to safeguard natural wealth and forests. The government will continue to support and expand the official housing policy to cover the largest number possible of the middle class and the low-income people. It will encourage the private sector to do its share in this respect, particularly in the popular areas. The government will continue to expand the formal health services qualitatively and in the various areas, providing the best treatment and medicine for various segments of the people. It will make clearer the procedures of medical care in the private hospitals. It will exert efforts to provide the required conditions to promote government hospitals in accordance with the plan that we started during the previous government.

In the field of social affairs, the government will seek to expand and enhance services to the categories and regions in most need through comprehensive social development and in collaboration with the private groups. It will give the handicapped the attention worthy of a humane Lebanon.

In the field of transportation, the government will remedy the shortcomings resulting from the continued chaos in this sector, including the rehabilitation and expansion of the infrastructure, making available the direct requirements needed to upgrade the public transportation sector, encourage the private transportation sector, and broaden their areas of services to gradually cover all Lebanese areas. The government will give the maritime, land, and air transportation sectors as well as ports and airports particular attention commensurate with their role in consolidating the structure of the national economy through the activity of the free zones in all districts.

Mr. Speaker, esteemed deputies: The previous governments, all of them, have faced obstacles in their quest to rebuild the state departments. Under this government, we will spare no efforts to give attention to the public administration affairs until we attain a modern and more effective administration. We will continue to bolster, increase the efficiency of, and modernize the control agencies to go hand in hand with the modernization of the administration sector's personnel, legislations, methods, and concepts. We also believe that administrative corruption cannot be an incurable malady if there is a political will and a responsible and capable management. Accordingly, administrative development had to be in the forefront of the government's priorities so that the aspired reforms may become a permanent and active process that seeks to develop and improve the existing administrative capabilities in accordance with well-defined plans and within the framework of a comprehensive political commitment supporting and steering this trend. The purpose of this is to emphasize that administrative development is an ongoing and incessant national process and a major component of the national reconstruction efforts that aims to strengthen the pillars of the homeland and society.

Because of the comprehensiveness and broadness of the administrative development process, the government will adopt successive steps under an integrated plan that will initially focus on urgent rehabilitation measures to recreate administrative capabilities and enable the administration to assume its basic duties. In the meantime and parallel to this, the plan will create the necessary atmosphere and framework to ensure the continuity of the administrative modernization process.

The government is serious in consolidating the judicial authority and safeguarding its independence because it is the true guarantee of the individuals' right and freedoms and the mainstay in building a state where law prevails.

Mr. Speaker, honorable deputies: The Lebanese people, with their potential, resources, and creativity, are capable of surmounting all difficulties and facing all challenges. If there is a difference in views among us, it is not about the fundamental issues on which the national accord is based. We all support Lebanon and strive to save it. We may disagree sometimes on the ways of handling things, but this is only natural. The government is in need of people who monitor its performance, rectify its errors, and light its path. This is the core of the democracy process, which we cherish, respect, and desire so that the march of government action may be as free of shortcomings as possible and may lead to the results we all desire.

What groups us together and unites us is much more than what divides us. So let us work toward what brings us closer and unites us, not what divides and separates us. Let us—and we are capable and worthy of doing so—work as one man to restore to Lebanon its splendor, glory, and prominence.

Mr. Speaker, honorable deputies: This government is the fifth under the rule of President Ilyas al-Hirawi, during which an era of fruitful cooperation with sisterly Syria has started, war has come to an end, peace has prevailed, the Army has been reunited, the reconstruction of the state institutions and the rebuilding and development process have been unleashed and, most important of all, the stability that we enjoy and the political freedom that we experience under our constitutional and democratic system have materialized. It is the government of consolidating the stability and fortifying the freedoms.

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It is a government of deeds, effectiveness, and follow-up in all fields. A government of harmony, solidarity, responsibility, and work to serve the interests of the homeland and the citizens. A government that is eager to work in collaboration with your honorable chamber. It is presenting itself to the chamber to request its confidence and has faith that, with you, it will continue to build Lebanon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and esteemed deputies. Long live Lebanon. [applause]

'Powerful Blast' Kills 1 in Bint Jubayl Residence

NC0606072995 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A powerful blast rocked the entrance of the home of Lutfi Bazzi in Bint Jubayl at 0300 today. Bazzi was instantly killed in the explosion. Immediately afterwards, South Lebanese Army troops closed down all entrances to the village and instituted a wide-scale search campaign.

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UK Parliamentary Team Meets Leading Officials

JN0306154595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 June 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received a British parliamentary delegation led by (Mark Linkostoid), member of the House of Commons, at 0930 GMT today.

Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the People's Assembly Arab and Foreign Relations Committee; Hasan Sibahi, People's Assembly member; and the British ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

The discussion dealt with the situation in the region, the peace process, and bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received the British parliamentary delegation representing the British Conservative Party, the Labor Party, and the Liberal Democratic Party led by (Mark Linkostoid).

Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the People's Assembly Arab and Foreign Relations Committee; 'Abd-al-Hasib Istwani, director of the Western Europe Desk; and the British ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

The discussion focused on the situation in the region, the developments of the peace process, and bilateral relations.

Israel Urged To Make 'Sound' Decision on Withdrawal

JN0506144395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 5 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: As of today, U.S. diplomacy resumes its active move in the Middle East proceeding from the pledge it had made to play the role of an honest broker and a full partner in the peace process.

The U.S. coordinator of the peace process will begin a new tour that paves the way for a similar tour which U.S. Secretary Warren Christopher will make at the end of the week to give a new push to this process and to resume negotiations on the Syrian track after an initial understanding on security arrangements has been reached.

It is natural to say that what has been reached is nothing more than a step that needs to be followed by practical steps which, if they continue to advance in a well-studied manner, should make peace a reality and not a dream or words up in the air.

If the war decision is hard, then the peace decision is even harder. For its part, Syria made a decision. It announced that it chose peace as an irrevocable strategic option, that is, if the other party; namely, Israel, in return, is willing to seek peace to the end according to the bases outlined by the international community and the U.S. initiative which was proposed approximately four years ago.

Although statements by senior Israeli officials are taking a new course that could be described as closer to logic and sense, Israel continues to adhere to some stands which do not give the peace process the required momentum to achieve the peace objective.

Withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders is a Syrian just demand recognized by all international laws and UN resolutions and by the well-known U.S. initiative. However, despite statements by its officials that the Golan is a Syrian territory, Israel does not want its withdrawal to be to the 4 June 1967 borders. The issue here is not easy if Israel does not make a decision and announce its willingness to withdraw to these borders. Syria will not relinquish a single inch of its occupied land whether now or in the future. Israel and the U.S. sponsor also are fully aware of this point. The issue does not need a heavenly miracle to be solved. Indeed, it needs an Israeli decision based on right, justice, and international law.

The main point of the dispute is now confined to what the Israelis call the scope of Israeli withdrawal. When the leaders of Israel make the sound decision on full withdrawal from the Golan, the region shall have made big strides toward building a just, comprehensive, and viable peace. There is no doubt that solving this dilemma created by Israel will move the region to a new stage. However, the problem is that every positive step we sense from Israel is tied by the Israelis to an obstacle to peace.

Talk by Israeli Prime Minister Rabin about a referendum is one of the most important obstacles to peace. This is in addition to attempts to prolong withdrawal time so that it would continue for years, as well as other obstacles that have, so far, prevented the peace train from moving forward.

When U.S. diplomacy begins a new move in this region, it will realize the magnitude of the little progress achieved through U.S. mediation. Moreover, it will become aware of the major obstacles which continue to obstruct peace. Just as U.S. officials received full response from Damascus during their previous tours of the region, they will also find Syrian response to their new efforts, but without encroachment on the constants of the Syrian stand based on right and international laws.

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Syria wants peace, but not in exchange for conceding or relinquishing an inch of its dear land or sacred rights. If the Israelis are actually determined to make peace, then they must say their word and make the sound decisions that would usher in a new stage of peace and action in the entire region for the sake of its peoples' prosperity and progress.

Commentary Notes 'Progress' in Israeli 'Mentality'

JN0506125295 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1753 GMT 4 Jun 95

[From the "Behind the News" feature by Raja Farzali]

[FBIS Translated Text] A major characteristic of the period since the Madrid conference was held in late 1991 is the realization of progress within the framework of security arrangements on the Syrian-Israeli track. Given the various rounds of talks, U.S. efforts, and the meetings that led to no results, the amount of progress may not in fact be commensurate with the time that has passed since the Madrid conference was held. However, if this progress is an indicator of a change in Yitzhaq Rabin's government's position, then there is a possibility of positive steps later on, especially after Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' announcement that the Golan is a Syrian land and that Israel will not stay in the lands of others.

This statement, as well as other statements, mark progress in the mentality of Rabin's government, who used to declare a withdrawal in or a limited withdrawal from the Golan at times, or say that the size of the withdrawal is determined by the degree of peace at others. This statement and other statements indicate one thing, namely, Rabin's keenness on occupying as much as he can of the Golan within his concept of peace.

It goes without saying that Peres' announcement that the Golan is a Syrian land is an acknowledgement of the Syrian identity of the Golan and of the illegitimacy of implementing the Israeli laws on it since 1981. However, Peres' statement is not adequate, for there is a difference between acknowledging Syria's right in the Golan and returning the Golan to Syria as was the case on 4 June 1967. Furthermore, Peres' argument that Israel will pay a dear price in return for peace with Syria is not true because Israel will not return a land of its own. Rather it will return a land which is Syrian as he himself admitted. So, what is the dear price?

Renouncing occupation is not a dear price, it is not a price anyway, except if those who occupy the lands of others try to blackmail or bargain over a right they do not own and base their calculations and illusions on a premise that the owner of the right may relinquish his right which was usurped by force. What will be said about an owner of right who relinquishes his right? This relinquishment is permissible only in the law of the jungle and laws of occupiers. Rights should be returned to their owner sooner or later. However, this issue has another dimension other than the legal one, that is, peace according to a just and comprehensive concept. In exchange for returning land, Israel will obtain peace. Since its inception, Israel has claimed that it lives amid Arab enmity and that all it wants is to live in peace. So, why do Israel's rulers hamper the realization of peace which will be given to them in return for their renunciation of occupation of lands, whether Syrian, Lebanese or any other Arab lands? What are their pretexts?

They say that they want to build confidence, that they want test periods, and that they want guarantees for their security. However, why do they bestow these rights on themselves at a time when they are occupying the lands of others and deny those whose lands are occupied these rights? Logic necessitates that there should be equality [tasawi] and parallelism [tawazi] or else things will not go in the right direction.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has stated in clear terms that the security of any party should not be at the expense of the other party's security. This issue cannot be a subject of bargaining for those who really want peace. Syria wants peace because peace is its strategic option. This does not mean that Syria will waver in its constants. As His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has stated, Syria will not concede or fall back and it insists on withdrawal back to 4 June 1967 lines.

If the Rabin government is serious about attaining peace on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, then the road for this attainment will be paved once Israel gives up its Spartan dreams and moves toward a just and comprehensive peace based on the land-for-peace principle which guarantees equal [mutasawi] and equitable [mutakafi'] security for all.

Radio: Peres Peace Statements Need 'Greater Clarity'

JN0106155295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 1 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: It is clear that there has recently been a slight change in the Israeli political and media discourse over the peace process, particularly on the Syrian track of negotiations. Against this background came the recent statements by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in which he acknowledged that the Golan is Syrian territory, and that the

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Israeli inhabitants of this territory are living on Syrian territory. True, Peres has brought nothing new. Nevertheless, his statements reflected a limited change in the Israeli position, which did not recognize that the Golan is Syrian territory. However, these statements by Peres require greater clarity, as well as serious work on the ground. Such work must begin by the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, which provide for complete Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders.

These statements by Peres have neutralized many Israeli arguments that have obstructed the peace process, such as the argument regarding the alleged viability of partial withdrawals and solutions, which have been proven to be a threat jeopardizing the peace process and fuelling tension, as has been made manifestly clear to all in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip. With regard to the Israeli statements on a referendum regarding withdrawal from the Golan, they are in violation of an unequivocal resolution passed by the United Nations in the aftermath of Israel's annexation of the Golan. This resolution deemed Israel's annexation of the Golan and its results, such as the building of settlements, null and void. This resolution disallows any Israeli referendum, and renders any such referendum a violation of international legitimacy.

After all, the international legitimacy resolutions are passed to be implemented, and not to be topics over which referendums can be held. As for the Israeli prime minister's statements regarding the need to test Syria's intentions, they cannot promote the peace process, nor can they expedite the efforts to establish true peace. For Syria's intentions are extremely clear. They enjoy the support and appreciation of all international forces. This is because Syria's strategic option is the achievement of just peace. Moreover, since the launch of the peace process in Madrid, Syria has facilitated this process and rescued it from serious impasses. The world community is well aware of this. That is why this community holds Syria in high esteem.

Syria's intentions are widely known. As a matter of fact, these intentions are couched in declared positions that stipulate that Syria cannot abandon a single inch of the territory of the occupied Golan, and that peace is unachievable unless Israel effects complete withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon to the 4 June 1967 borders, as provided for in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Syria's intentions, positions, and concept of peace are in line with the international community's concept of peace. These intentions, positions, and concepts are best epitomized in the phrase coined by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad: Full peace in exchange for complete withdrawal.

Press Reiterates al-Asad's Remarks on Peace, Golan

JN0306115495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, TISHRIN notes that in his statements to journalists at the conclusion of his talks with [Egyptian] President Husni Mubarak, President Hafiz al-Asad stressed that Syria strongly adheres to, can never give up the demand for, and will never accept anything short of, the 4 June 1967 borderline. TISHRIN stresses that having said this, President Hafiz al-Asad has once again removed all doubts: Syria will never relinquish a single inch of its territory or an iota of its rights.

The paper says: Undoubtedly, Syria has proved time and again that it is eager to achieve a just, comprehensive peace, and thus it is giving a genuine example that peace is not based on maneuvers and tricks. This is because peace requires a genuine and sincere commitment to the requirements of a just peace, represented by putting an end to the occupation, injustice, and aggression.

TISHRIN says that this is what Syria sincerely said when it asserted that peace cannot be based on the policy of imposing the status quo and making gains at the expense of the other party, nor can it be based on pretexts and proposals which seek to maintain the occupied territory. Rather, peace must be based on returning rights to their legitimate owners, implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the restoration of territory and rights. That is the only way for an era of a just, comprehensive, and true peace to start in the region.

Concluding, TISHRIN says that having left no ambiguities, President Hafiz al-Asad has proved that Syria's policy sincerely and genuinely seeks to arrive at the aspired regional peace. This is because without the full restoration of territory there will be no just and comprehensive peace.

In an article, AL-THAWRAH discusses the hostile and arbitrary policy against our kinfolk in the occupied Golan. The paper says that this definitely anti-Syria hostile policy makes it hard to believe or to be confident that Israel thinks of and seeks to achieve peace. This is because arriving at a just, comprehensive peace requires speedy withdrawal from the occupied Golan, halting the campaigns of repression and detentions, ending all causes and factors of dispute, and dealing with the

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essence of the dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions and the bases of the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH says that Israel is aware that Syria adheres to international legitimacy and international law. Peace can only be achieved when all its just requirements are met. As President al- Hafiz al-Asad said: The road to peace passes through the international resolutions.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The Syrian position is known and clear to Israel and the world. This has been asserted by leader al-Asad, who said: Syria's position is known and clear. Syria strongly adheres to and cannot give up the demand for the 4 June 1967 border. Syria can never accept anything short of that. This issue is settled, at least as far as we are concerned.

AL-THAWRAH says that the U.S. sponsor understands this position. The paper says that Syrian constants have not changed and that peace will only be achieved on the basis of these constants.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says that Israel's current policy cannot make peace, end a dispute, or reflect credibility. This is because the peace for which the Rabin government is working means imposing capitulation and hegemony on the Arabs and continuing the occupation of their territory. Definitely, this is unacceptable. As President al-Asad said: We will not give in to despair. Our nation is alive. It can never die or perish.

Columnist Questions PLO 'Wager' on Israeli Talks

JN0506154395 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 4 Jun 95 p 3

[From the "With the Events" column by Ilyas Khuri: "Running After a Mirage"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Once again, the PLO has wagered on a new chance for self-rule negotiations. It has decided to expedite these negotiations with Israel in the hope that Israel will make good on its promises and implement the second phase of the Oslo agreement prior to 1 July. This phase has to do with holding elections for the self-rule councils in the occupied West Bank and transferring the rest of the authorities to the PLO.

Without passing any prejudgment, we can say that this wager seems to be a losing one, in view of the facts and developments that have accompanied the implementation of the first phase of the Oslo agreement. Developments have shown that Israel wants to implement this agreement, but according to its own declared concept and conditions. All these lead to liquidating the Palestine question and confining it to the Gaza-Jericho First, and last, agreement. According to the Israeli understanding of the agreement, the self-rule authority will become its appointed agent whose first mission is to combat resistance — the Palestinian intifadah — provide security to the Israeli settlers, and help Israel infiltrate the Arab nation politically and economically.

If an agreement on the second phase is reached before the deadline, then this agreement will not be different from what happened in the first phase, in terms of its framework, concept, and method of implementation. If elections are held, they will be held in accordance with Israel's conditions. Jerusalem will be excluded from any agreement, since it is considered Israel's unified, eternal capital. The Israeli Army will redeploy, but in a way that enables it to maintain its de facto occupation of the West Bank under the pretext of protecting the settlers and settlements.

At the conclusion of its Tunis meetings yesterday, the PLO issued a statement warning that Israel's procrastination to obstruct the self-rule agreement and the other agreements and commitments could cause the collapse of the entire peace process. This will have negative effects on the region as a whole. The question now: What is the next step after this warning? Will the PLO quit the negotiations and revoke all its agreements with Israel, as the majority of Palestinians inside the occupied homeland demand? Or will it continue to run after Israel's mirage, which will only make the PLO cause more harm to the Palestine question and relinquish the rights, interests, and security of the Palestinian people.

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Afghanistan

Aide Views Detained 'Terrorists,' Stingers to Iran

MM0506115395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Jun 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Amir Taheri: "Presidential Spokesman Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "We Arrested Scores of Arabs in Hekmatyar Camps"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — A senior Afghan official announced yesterday that a number of the Afghan Arabs who were arrested following the defeat inflicted by government forces on the faction led by former Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar will stand trial.

Dr. Abdollah, deputy defense minister and main spokesman for the government, said that the detainees, who belong to Arab and Islamic states and whom he described as "terrorists," do not exceed scores in number, not hundreds as first reported. He added that the detainees come from Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, Palestine, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and other states.

He added that 20 Pakistani detainees were handed over to Saudi special envoy Prince Turki al-Faysal in Kabul last week. Dr. Abdollah said that Hekmatyar set up camps to train Afghan Arabs, and that he played the role of an intermediary between Iran and fundamentalist groups in the Middle East and North Africa. He added that groups of Sudanese fundamentalists participated in recruiting Arabs to take part in special training courses in Afghanistan. And that after an initial period of training, they participated in battles inside Afghanistan to demonstrate their seriousness and test their tenacity on the battlefield with a view to sending them to fight inside the states to which they belong.

The official said nothing about the fate of the detainees, whom he insisted on calling "terrorists." He said that some of them will be extradited to their countries if their governments request their extradition.

Nevertheless, none of the governments concerned has submitted an official extradition request to Kabul. However, some Arabs and Pakistanis accused of committing crimes inside Afghanistan could stand trial in the Afghan capital.

The official pointed out that huge quantities of weapons and larges sums of money were sent through Afghanistan to fundamentalist groups in a number of countries, including Algeria. He did not name these groups. However, he stressed that Afghan authorities have full knowledge of the identity of those involved. He said that Afghan was also used as a base for supplies and as a camouflage by many of the extremist movements operating in the Middle East and North Africa.

He added: "We have destroyed most of the terrorist networks, and the world should be grateful for what we have done." Dr. 'Abdallah said that his government also has evidence that Hekmatyar sold Iran some U.S. antiaircraft Stinger missiles.

Algerian 'Terrorists' Involved in War To Be Tried

LD0306221195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In London, the official spokesman of the Afghan Government and deputy defense minister said that the Algerian Afghans who fought in the Afghan war and who have been detained by the government of President Rabbani will be brought to justice, and he described them as terrorists.

He added that the government forces arrested scores of Afghans from numerous Arab and Islamic states during the recent attack on the Hekmatyar camp. He also added that Hekmatyar set up camps to train conscripts through Iranian and Sudanese mediation. The Afghan official also revealed that quantities of weapons and money were sent from Afghanistan to the armed groups in Algeria and other countries and that the Afghan Government knows the identity of the participants in these operations.

Senior General of Dostam Forces Killed

LD0506182095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the killing of one of General Dostam's senior generals, an attack by the militia was repulsed in Samangan Province. Reports reaching BAKHTAR say that General 'Abdol Haq, a commander of the Dostam militia, who launched an attack two days ago on the positions of the mojahedin in Samangan Province, was killed as a result of the mojahedin's bravery, and the attack was repulsed. On top of the killing of General 'Abdol Haq, the mojahedin killed 15 others in a counterattack. The mojahedin captured four PK machineguns, two RPG's, and 20 Kalashnikov guns.

Similarly, another offensive by the Dostam militia was aborted in the Gerdab area of Baghlan. Scores of militia were killed in the offensive and a number of others have been taken prisoner by the mojahedin.

According to another report, Arbab Hafizollah, a famous commander of the Dostam militia, Hafizollah recently joined, with all his men, the Islamic army after realizing

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the justice of its stance. The group has brought with it two pieces of 80mm artillery, one piece of 75mm artillery, two BM1 [rocket launchers] with ammunition, a medium mortar, 130 light weapons, and a large quantity of ammunition. They vowed to defend the Islamic rule.

Radio Says Taleban Secretly Led by Khalq Faction

LD0506200695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Coordinated operations by the opponents of the state have recently been observed, but have encountered resolute resistance from the Islamic army.

A BAKHTAR correspondent writes: The Taleban group emerged last year with the slogan of fighting against vice, and achieved a series of successes under this pretext. But now they have themselves embarked on blocking highways, persecuting the people, fighting the mojahedin, and joining the Dostam militia. Observers are of the opinion that since their emergence, the Taleban have been secretly led by the defeated Khalq faction.

The passage of time has proved this. Otherwise how could religious students tolerate cooperation with the bloodthirsty General Humayun Pawzi who was sent unharmed to Balkh? But Mazari was treated very badly [as heard]. The Khalq faction are the people who have forged and alliance between the Taleban and the Dostam militia and have coordinated their activities against the mojahedin and the Islamic state. It is noteworthy that Dostam has recently started hostilities against the ulema in provinces which are controlled by him, and savagely kills them. For instance, they killed Mawlawi Shahaboddin and his son who were kidnapped a few days ago. The Taleban do not know that they have become an instrument in the hands of the enemies of the country and religion [words indistinct].

India

'Discordant' Statements by U.S. on Kashmir Faulted

BK0606053595 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 3 Jun 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Anarchic America"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner has once again suggested that India, Pakistan, and the people of Kashmir should jointly try to find a solution to the Kashmir problem. Wisner injected a lot of goodwill through his assertion that the United States does not want to mediate to resolve the Kashmir tangle, but with the way U.S. officials keep changing their statements it is difficult to assess what the American really want. Only last week U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher advocated a bilateral solution to the Kashmir problem in the very presence of External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee. Considering the norms of bureaucracy, by making a statement contrary to what Christopher said earlier Wisner flouted the very authority of his direct boss. Since ambassadors have the secretary of state as their boss, they ought to be more discreet about following his statements and speaking accordingly. Even if we overlook this example, Wisner has a tendency to alter his statements at an amazing pace. When he was stationed in his own country he was enamored with Pakistan, and he once spoke on Kashmir blatantly favoring Pakistan. Then he came to India and studied the situation. This led him to make certain statements indicating he had shed his earlier prejudices and was perhaps trying to understand India afresh. His frequent habit of uttering old-style comments gives the impression of fickleness. It has even raised doubts about his real intentions, and hence sincerity.

It is not that Wisner is the solitary U.S. official given to changing his views frequently. Perhaps the chief characteristic of the U.S. Administration is the cacophony of discordant notes sounding simultaneously. We may consider its completely variant views in the Indian context, for example. Wisner said something totally contradictory to what Robin Raphel has declared, while during his recent India visit John Mallot suggested an entirely new way of solving the Kashmir problem. Meanwhile, U.S. President Bill Clinton went to the extent of expressing his willingness to meet with the terrorists active in our country. Considering all these factors, the impression is that simple anarchy, not a sane administration, is running the United States. The question is: Why does the United States still portray itself as the world leader? At times it appears to be a conglomeration of people of all kinds. All the talented people in the world rush to the United States, where they are accorded a very warm welcome but are employed in purely technical jobs. The best U.S. brains choose trade and industry to express their excellence. Only people with below average talent seek government jobs. Perhaps this is reflected in the U.S. political situation as well. That is why U.S. officials speak recklessly in rigmarole and seem afflicted with blind Americanism. They do not give any more importance to other countries than they would give a filthy fly. They can call Benazir Bhutto the prime minister of India and refuse to cover our prime minister's U.S. visit in their newspapers, and yet say whatever they like about the problems afflicting our country with a supercilious authority.

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Sudan Foreign Minister Visits, Meets Mukherjee

BK3005155995 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1430 GMT 30 May 95

["Press Release" — ISI Headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, foreign minister of Sudan met External Affairs Minister [EAM] Shri Pranab Mukherjee today. Mr. Taha is presently in India on an official visit at the invitation of the EAM. Mr. Taha will be in India between 30th May and 3rd June 1995.

During their meeting, bilateral and multilateral issues of common interest and concern were discussed. The Sudan foreign minister requested Indian assistance in transfer of medium technology and the development of small scale industries. The Sudanese minister also wanted Indian assistance to achieve self sufficiency in food grain production.

On Kashmir, EAM briefed the visiting dignitary about the situation in the state, events leading up to the destruction of the shrine at Charar Sharif and Govt [government] of India's offer to hold bilateral talks. The Sudanese foreign minister said that it was his conviction that the Kashmir issue should be resolved through bilateral dialogue and peaceful means. He also stated that internationalization of the issue will not serve any purpose. If both sides wanted to seriously resolve the issue, then bilateral talks should take place without preconditions.

The Sudanese foreign minister said that the international organizations must reflect the ground reality in the international system and in this connection supported India's argument for the expansion of the Security Council and called for greater interaction among the Third World countries.

The Sudan foreign minister would be calling, among others, on the honorable vice president of India and the honorable speaker of the Lok Sabha. EAM and the Sudanese foreign minister would be exchanging letters upgrading the existing joint committee at secretary level into a joint commission at ministerial level.

'Sources:' Pakistani-Backed Militant Plan Foiled

BK0506155995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Kashmir Valley, security forces have foiled yet another attempt by the Pakistani-supported militants to smuggle in large quantity of arms and ammunition. According to Army sources, 32 boxes of ammunition containing 25,000 rounds were recovered from Kupwara. The ammunition has been hidden under the snow.

Elsewhere in the valley, two persons were injured in the continuing group clashes between different militant outfits. Twenty-five militants have been arrested since last evening.

In Kashmir Valley, people in Kangan area took out a procession today raising slogans against Pakistan and Hezbul Mojahedin. They were protesting against the recent attack on a former minister, Mian Altaf, who was seriously injured in a land mine blast at Gandarbal.

Army Chief of Staff Comments on 'Internal' Duties

BK0506125295 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 28 May 95 p 9

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] New Delhi, May 27 — The chief of the Army Staff has said that it feels great to be head of the Indian Army. General Shankar Roychowdhury also revealed his concern about the fact that the Army is facing a shortage of officers but, in contrast with some of his predecessors, said that he believes that in the present circumstances it is as much the Army's duty to help inside the country as it is to defend India's outside borders.

In the first television interview that he has given since taking over as Chief of the Army Staff in November 1994, General Roychowdhury was asked by HTV's 'the Chat Show' what it feels like to be Chief of the Indian Army, he replied:

"It feels great. It feels great to be at the head of a profession which you have served for 41 years. It feels great".

Asked if he had ever imagined in 1957, when he was commissioned into the Army, that he would make it to the top, General Roychowdhury said: "Frankly I think every young man who gets commissioned into the service has these thoughts on the day of his commissioning. But only very, very, very few have it in their fortune to make it to the top". [passage omitted]

In the interview, which is to be broadcast on HTV's Chat Show at 7.00 p.m. on Sunday May 28 on Doordarshan's Metro Channel, the Army Chief also spoke about the Army's role in handling the country's internal disturbances. He made it clear that unlike some of his predecessors who were concerned about the use of the Army for internal purposes, he not only didn't share their concern but in fact, saw it as part of the Army's duty.

"The so-called internal disturbances in this country, a large number of them, the major ones any way, have very strong external roots and as and when the Army is deployed on such duties, in effect, you are fighting

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external aggression. So there is a co- relationship between the external duty and the internal duty. In the types of trouble we are having now it is as much the Army's duty to help inside as it is to defend the outside borders".

However, the Army Chief did add that when a jawan was called upon to fire on a fellow citizen rather than an enemy, the quality of leadership that he serves under is tested: "The officer has to be very careful under such circumstances that he is giving the correct orders".

The Army Chief also revealed that he is very concerned about the shortage of officers his service is facing:

"I am indeed concerned about it. We are facing a shortage of officers and that too at the critical bracket of the young officer level, which is the cuttmg edge really. We hope that more and more young people will come forward to join the service."

General Roychowdhury said that the cause of the problem was that "other things are more inviting". [passage omitted]

Congress-I Official Views 'Opportunistic Alliance'

BK0506130495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress-I has described the BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party's] support to the Mayawati-led Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP] in Uttar Pradesh from outside as an opportunistic alliance. Talking to newspersons in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. Gadgil, said such alliances do not last long. Answering a question, he however ruled out an immediate political realignment in the country in the wake of the alliance between the BSP and the BJP. Reacting to Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav's charge that the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao; former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh; and the United States are responsible for the dismissal of his government, Mr. Gadgil said a defeated man sometimes gives absurd explanations.

The BJP has refuted the criticism that its support to the BSP ministry in Uttar Pradesh is opportunistic and unprincipled. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, the party spokesperson, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, said ousting the Mulayam Singh government was in accordance with the wishes of the people of the state.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, said his party will not support any government which has direct or indirect support from the BJP. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he alleged that the Bahujan Samaj Party has betrayed the forces of secularism and social justice by joining hands with the BJP.

Uttar Pradesh Coalition Government Collapses

BK0206035295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Uttar Pradesh [UP] governor, Mr. Motilal Vora, has said that he will consult legal experts before taking a final decision on the future of the Mulayam Singh Yadav government. The governor had a hectic day yesterday, meeting leaders of different political parties after the Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP] withdrew its support to the SP [Samajwadi Party]-BSP coalition government in the state. Mr. Vora told UNI that he will shortly take a decision over the BSP's claim to form an alternate government. Meanwhile, all the 11 ministers of the Bahujan Samaj Party have resigned from the Mulayam Singh Yadav ministry and their resignations have been accepted by the governor.

As reported, the BSP withdrew its support to the 18-month-old coalition government yesterday, alleging atrocities on weaker sections and a total breakdown of law and order in the state. It also claimed to form a new government with the support of opposition parties. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has informed the governor in writing of its support to the BSP to form a new ministry.

The chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, has said he will neither resign nor recommend the dissolution of the state assembly. He is understood to have requested the governor for an opportunity to prove his majority on the floor of the house.

The UP Congress-I president, Mr. Jitendra Prasad, has welcomed the withdrawal of support by the BSP to the Mulayam Singh Yadav government. In a statement in Lucknow, Mr. Jitendra Prasad said that the future course of action will be decided by the party working committee meeting to be held on Saturday [3 June] in New Delhi.

New Uttar Pradesh Chief Sworn In; Parties React

BK0406122495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP] leader, Ms. Mayawati, has been sworn in as the new chief minister of Uttar Pradesh. She was administered the oath of office and secrecy by the state governor. The governor has asked Ms. Mayawati to prove her majority on the floor of the assembly within 15 days. She is the 16th chief minister and the second woman chief minister of Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, the governor dismissed the 18-month old Mulayam Singh Yadav government, when Mr. Yadav refused to tender his resignation. Ms. Mayawati's

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swearing-in ended the political uncertainty of the last three days in the state that had begun with the BSP pulling out of the SP [Samajwadi Party]-BSP coalition government. Along with Ms. Mayawati, Mr. Ram Lakhan Verma was also administered the oath as a cabinet minister. Those present at the swearing-in ceremony included the outgoing chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav; former chief minister, Mr. Kalyan Singh; and senior BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Murli Manohar Joshi. Soon after the swearing-in ceremony, Ms. Mayawati told newspersons that the first priority of her government will be to restore law and order in the state. Replying to a query, the new chief minister declared that all the transfer orders issued by the Mulayam Singh Yadav government after it was reduced to a minority will be canceled. Ms. Mayawati also said she will expand the cabinet very soon.

The Congress-I has decided not to support the BSP government backed by the Bharatiya Janata Party. The Congress-I Working Committee, in a unanimous resolution in New Delhi last night, said the party will function as an active opposition in the state, while pursuing its own secular and egalitarian path shown by Mahatma Gandhi. Briefing newspersons at the end of the meeting, the party general secretary Mr. Janardhan Poojary, said the Congress-I will not take sides in what he called opportunistic power fights being witnessed in Uttar Pradesh.

The BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani, and senior party leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, have hailed the dismissal of the Mulayam Singh Yadav ministry and the installation of the BSP government. The Janata Dal leader, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, and CPI [Communist Party of India] leader, Mr. Shailen Das Gupta, have said that their parties will not support any government which is backed by the BJP.

Reacting to the political developments in Uttar Pradesh, the Congress-I president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said it is a matter of great concern for the party. Addressing the general body meeting of the Congress-I Parliamentary Party [CPP] in New Delhi yesterday, he said the people are aware of the happenings in Uttar Pradesh and will realize the capabilities of the opposition parties to complete the full term in office. Mr. Narasimha Rao said partymen should not feel disappointed, but approach the people with a sense of optimism. He said the winning of 10 out of 25 assembly seats in the recent by- elections is an achievement for the party. About TADA [Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act], he said unless a substitute law is brought, terrorists may get a shot in the arm. Mr. Narasimha Rao was critical about 25 party members not attending parliament session at crucial moments. The CPP adopted a unanimous resolution expressing confidence in Mr. Narasimha Rao's leadership.

Finance Minister Reelected to Rajya Sabha

BK0506132795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has been reelected to the Rajya Sabha from Assam. In today's election held for two Rajya Sabha seats from the state, the Asom Gana Parishad candidate, Mr. Paradda Chelliah, has also been declared elected.

In Andhra Pradesh, the Telugu Desam candidate, Mr. (N.K. Stabba), was leading by over 8,000 votes over his Congress-I rival at the end of the second round of counting in Gorantla assembly consitituency.

In the Gidder Baha constituency in Punjab, the Congress-I candidate, Mr. Deepak Kumar Gark, was leading by more than 1,700 votes over his nearest Akali Dal rival, Mr. Manprit Singh, at the end of the first round of counting.

CPI-M Politburo Expels Nripen Chakraborty

95AS0375A Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed article: "CPI-M Expels Nripen for 'Indiscipline'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, April 13. — Bickering in the CPI(M) [Communist Party of India-Marxist] took a sharp turn today with the senior leader and former Chief Minister of Tripura, Mr Nripen Chakraborty, being expelled from the party for "gross indiscipline."

The decision was taken by the CPI(M) Politburo. Mr Chakraborty had been a member of the party since 1935.

The Politburo today alleged that Mr Chakraborty had been indulging in "gross indiscipline" by "repeatedly and publicly slandering" the party and the Left Front Governments in West Bengal and Tripura.

"This is most unfortunate as Mr Nripen Chakraborty has been reared in the traditions of the Communist International as a disciplined soldier of the party," the Politburo said.

The veteran leader had been dropped from the Politburo at the recently concluded party congress at Chandigarh.

In response, he had resigned from all party posts and launched a scathing attack on the performance of the

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West Bengal Government, especially that of the Chief Minister, Mr Jyoti Basu.

Evidently annoyed by the attack, the Politburo today accused Mr Chakraborty of "displaying extreme individualism, which is against the basic principles of collective functioning in a Communist party."

The party also raised the issue of Mr Chakraborty's controversial interview to a Calcutta-based daily last year, where he described the West Bengal Government as "uncivilized."

The Politburo statement claimed that though Mr Chakraborty had promised not to repeat this kind of action, on the eve of Chandigarh congress he had given another interview "slandering" the West Bengal and Tripura units of the party.

Later, instead of correcting himself, Mr Chakraborty held a Press conference and launched yet another virulent attack on the party and its leaders. The Politburo asked him once again to "realize the gravity of his mistake" and retrace his steps. However, he was not prepared to do so.

"No party leader, however tall, can flout the common discipline of the party so flagrantly. No party member can be above the party. The public stance of Mr Nripen Chakraborty has put the party in difficulty in Tripura and his slanders cannot be allowed to tarnish the image of the party," the statement said.

Our Staff Correspondent in Agartala adds: An unperturbed Mr Chakraborty told reporters tonight that he would react to the Politburo's decision tomorrow.

Our Special Representative in Calcutta adds: My Jyoti Basu refrained from commenting on the Mr Chakraborty's sudden expulsion, when contacted late on Thursday night.

"I am only a member of the party Politburo. Hence, I have nothing to say," was all he said.

Petroleum Ministry Releases 1994-95 Annual Report

95AS0408A Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 Apr 95 p 17

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, April 27—The production of crude oil in India is expected to reach a record level of 38.37 million tonnes in 1996-97 and touch an all-time high of 44.45 million tonnes per year at the end of the Eighth plan in 1996-97.

This has been made possible by the development of new fields, early production system, horizontal wells, deepening of existing wells, artificial lift, drain-hole drilling, enhancing work over efforts, additional development of existing fields, joint-venture development of water injection and enhanced oil recovery by the Petroleum ministry.

According to the Petroleum ministry's annual report for 1994-95, the total refining capacity in the country had also increased to about 56.40 million metric tonnes per annum (mmtpa) with the de-bottlenecking project of Madras Refineries Ltd, commissioning of Narimanam Refinery in 1993, enhancement of Indian Oil Corporation's capacity, Guwahati Refinery and expansion of Cochin Refineries Limited.

The demand for petroleum products is expected to grow from the present level of 59 mmtpa in 1992-93 to about 79.4 mmtpa by the end of the Eighth plan. Various proposals for expansion, de-bottlenecking of existing refineries and the setting up of joint-ventures are under different stages of implementation and approval. Accordingly, additional capacity of 16.15 mmtpa is in an advance stage of creation.

Following the government's liberalisation policy, refining capacities of 18 mmtpa in joint ventures, 30.5 mmtpa in the private sector under existing pricing policy system and about 17 mmtpa under 100 percent export-oriented schemes have already been approved.

By the end of this century, if all projects are implemented, the total refining capacity would be about 135 mmtpa which would be more than adequate to meet the demand of petroleum products in our country till the year 2005-2006 when demand for petroleum products is projected to increase to about 118 million tonnes.

According to the report, parallel marketing system received an encouraging response from the private sector. Public sector oil companies offered their import and storage facilities at ports to the extent possible to private sector entrepreneurs on a commercial basis to overcome the constraint of import facilities faced by the latter, who were also encouraged to put up their own infrastructural facilities for import and distribution.

The net internal resources generated by the PSUs [expansion not given] in the oil sector was about Rs 8,890 crores in 1994-95 as against Rs 7,686 crores in 1993-94. In keeping with the need to reduce the gap between the demand for and indigenous supply of crude oil and petroleum products, high priority was attached to the conservation of petroleum products.

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Iran

Commander: Military Confrontation With U.S. 'Inevitable'

95LA0239A Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 8 May 95 p 8

[Article: "U.S. Decision To Embargo Iran Means Declaration of War; Why Clinton Chose World Jewish Congress as Forum for Announcement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London—The six major industrialized Western countries were slow to announce their support for U.S. President Bill Clinton's announcement last Monday [1 May] of the imposition of a complete economic boycott on Iran. Britain, France, and Germany immediately rejected such measures, which Tehran termed "a declaration of war." European officials replied that there were different perspectives and viewpoints on the subject of Iran: The European Cooperation Council countries, at their 1992 Edinburgh summit, had decided not to boycott or embargo Tehran. They had agreed among themselves to follow a velvet-fist policy of discussing a solution to the problems of Iranian support of "terrorism," human rights, and the Salman Rushdie death sentence with the Iranians calmly and more realistically than with the "noisy methods of the American cowboys."

The only country that immediately announced its favorable response to Clinton's decision was Japan. Less than 12 hours after the new U.S. position, officials there said that Tokyo would review its previous plan to extend the term of its 40-billion-yen loan to Iran.

Insult to Muslims

Islamic and Arab circles and communities in the United States and the world considered the decision an insult to the world's Muslims because it was issued at the World Jewish Congress in New York, where Clinton was guest of honor.

The British newspaper THE TIMES, owned by the rich Canadian [as published] Jew Rupert Murdoch, said that "Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the pro-Israel lobby had pushed for this tragic deterioration" in relations between Washington and Tehran. Republican attempts in Congress to top Clinton's decision had climaxed with the demand to impose a secondary ban on Iran, halting U.S. commercial dealings with any foreign company in the world that deals with the Iranians.

This decision by the U.S. president settled a long, bitter struggle within the U.S. Administration and with huge corporations in the United States, especially oil companies with trade relations with Iran. It seems that the explosion of domestic U.S. terrorism in Oklahoma and the ensuing incitement of public opinion against Muslims and Arabs gave Clinton the required cover he had been seeking with Israel for several months to announce his economic war on Iran. British political observers predict that he will follow it in a few months with a complete embargo similar to the one imposed on Iraq, "when justifications are found for it."

Between now and next month, when the summit of the group of seven major industrialized countries meets in Canada, the U.S. Administration will launch a ruthless diplomatic campaign to gather support for the decision. Clinton will ask the countries to put their Iranian ledgers on the table. However, despite all the pressures, the idea of an embargo on Iran is not expected to receive full support from the Western alliance as was the case with Iraq. Observers think that the British, who continue to resist for the time being, may be the only ones who in the end obey Washington's "orders." As for France and Germany, the U.S. President has no hope of getting them to unleash such open hostility, though they may be prepared to take certain more severe measures toward Tehran.

Iran: Prepare for War

Clinton's decision puts the Europeans in a particularly difficult position. It forces them to choose between halting their dealings with Iran or losing their influence with the Gulf states, which blindly support the decision. At the same time, it sends a message to Russia and China that they must halt their nuclear cooperation with Tehran or face similar embargoes and the halting of material aid to Moscow.

While he was at the Jewish conference, Clinton took advantage of news he had received of how 2,000 soldiers of the Saudi National Guard had encircled "the Iranian camp" in Medina and had removed slogans and signs criticizing "the Americans, enemies of God and Islam," and calling for their expulsion from "sacred Islamic lands." Clinton took advantage of the news to say in his speech to the conventioneers that the Iranians were creating disturbances everywhere.

However, an Iranian official said that the slogans consisted of Koranic verses. The commander of Revolutionary Guard forces, Mohsen Reza'i, described the U.S. decision as opening the gates of war between the two countries. He said that "a military confrontation with the United States was inevitable" and called on Iranian forces "to be ready for war." He added that "all indicators show that the United States is preparing for war against Iran," and that "all military forces and revolutionary militias should prepare for this battle, which is inevitable." He said, "Some day we shall launch a de-

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cisive attack on the United States, and the commanders of the Armed Forces should prepare for it."

This was the first time since the Islamic revolution that a military official of such rank had broached this possibility explicitly and publicly.

Western political observers think that Clinton's step can be explained only in terms of his courting U.S. public opinion and powerful Jewish voters on the threshold of next year's presidential elections. They describe the casualness with which such critical international decisions endangering the United States and its nationals everywhere were made as "the worst possible thing for the leader of a major country to wind up doing in his pleading for a personal job"—i.e., the presidency.

U.S. Strategies, Perry Remarks on Gulf Viewed

NC0506153195 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 24 May 95 pp 16, 2

[Commentary by Mojtaba Amiri: "New U.S. Security Strategies in the Persian Gulf Region"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ever since the second Persian Gulf war ended there has been a major change in the U.S. military strategy in that region. In the new U.S. security strategy in the Persian Gulf region, which is being called new security arrangements, certain elements of change and constancy can be detected in the longstanding U.S. security policies there.

The main reasons for these current security arrangements with the implementation of the policy of the containment of Iran and Iraq are: Safeguarding the free passage of oil from the region and protecting Israel's security and that of other U.S. friends. To attain these objectives the United States has boosted its military presence and equipment in the region and has broadened its military cooperation with Persian Gulf countries. It has also elicited the concurrence of most of the regional countries for utilizing their ground, naval, and air resources. In other words, Iraq's aggression against Kuwait served to reinforce and consolidate the active U.S. military presence in the region and the Arab countries' defense dependency on the United States.

In view of the UN embargoes to contain Iraq, ostensibly the U.S. has taken over the containment of Iran all by itself and has delineated the new security strategy of the region for this purpose. The U.S. echelons claim that Iran has boosted its military forces in some small islands at the mouth of the Hormuz Strait. They allege that by purchasing submarines with mine-laying capability, patrol boats, and sea missiles Iran has endangered stability and security and the passage of 90 percent of the oil exports from the Strait of Hormuz.

William Perry, the U.S. defense secretary, sees potential danger in Iran's efforts to seek access to nuclear energy and in its stance regarding Israel. He claims that Iran and Iraq, which are the greatest military powers in the Middle East, constitute the most dangerous nuclear threat and that there is danger of a military conflict in the future.

On 18 May, William Perry, the U.S. defense secretary, presented the results of a few years of the studies by former defense officials regarding the regional security arrangements at a special session for members of the Council of Foreign Relations based in New York. He mentioned three main factors as the necessary requisites for the new security strategies of the United States in the Persian Gulf:

1. The strengthening of defense capabilities of every country in the Persian Gulf.

2. The boosting of collective defense capabilities in the region.

3. A strong U.S. military presence in the region.

With regard to the strengthening of the defense structure of every country in the Persian Gulf, ever since the end of the second Persian Gulf war due to the financial pressure stemming from a reduction of the price of oil, important progress has taken place. The Persian Gulf countries have taken important steps for strengthening their defense structure. The United States has forged strong defense relations with each one of the countries in the region with the aim of organizing their ordnance purchases, planning their training, and staging joint military maneuvers with the regional countries.

According to William Perry's claims, the United States is determined to continue its assistance to its friends and provide for their legitimate defense needs. This assistance extends far beyond their ordnance requirements. Of course, military assistance ensures that they can deter any potential enemy from taking any threatening action and also helps in bolstering their military strength. Perry adds that today the needs of U.S. friends in the region include military training in the use of the existing weapons in the military structure and not new weaponry.

These countries need trained and experienced pilots more than sophisticated armaments. For example, the U.S. main aim regarding its military cooperation with Kuwait is to assist in ensuring the training and cohesiveness of that country's Armed Forces.

—The Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] is the U.S. mechanism for providing collective defense coverage for countries of the region, the United States seeks to

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reinforce the military structure of the GCC member countries.

In this regard, according to Perry, every few years, important steps are taken even though we cannot be very optimistic about these now. These installations should not be considered similar to NATO and should not be compared to NATO's defense umbrella. The joint defense umbrella of the GCC countries has been formulated on the basis of the assumption that due to their geographical situation, the northern countries are apprehensive of Iraq and the southern countries of Iran.

Of course rivalries and differences among the GCC members are part of the problems that the United States faces in its efforts to ensure cohesiveness in the collective defense in the region. According to William Perry most of these differences manifest themselves in the form of border skirmishes and even armed clashes. Differences among the GCC countries become more accentuated on issues regarding the division of allocations for collective defense. Due to these differences the United States wishes to unite and coalesce the regional countries to combat Iran and Iraq.

—The third element in the latest U.S. strategy is the strong U.S. presence in the region, which according to the remarks by the U.S. Defense Secretary can be attained in four ways:

1. The deployment of a vanguard force in the region. In the past five years, the United States has been without such a vanguard force in the region. Even when it had the Rapid Deployment Force [RDF], the United States was not able to meet its security needs and provide the forces it needed. However, now that it has such a vanguard force in the region, most of its forces are part of a collective international force which are present in order to implement UN resolutions on Iraq.

2. The permanent presence of U.S. forces in the region. Today, the United States has deployed a considerable number of its naval forces in the region, with its center in Bahrain. For example, last September the United States deployed 20 frigates and destroyers, 200 warships, two guided antimissile units, some warships, and 100 Tomahawk missiles in the region at the various bases in the GCC countries, ready to participate in operations.

William Perry claimed that even though the main objective of U.S. forces in the region is geared toward Iraq, they are also ready to counteract any possible move by Iran. In addition, they provide timely information to the United States regarding the moves of the two countries in the region. In 1990, during the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, the United States did not have access to such information.

3. Military preparations and equipment in the region. The United States not only has powerful forces in Kuwait, it can also use them swiftly in cases of emergency. This U.S. capability stems from its predeployed equipment in the region which it has stockpiled, especially in Kuwait. According to William Perry, this equipment is enough for the needs of an armed brigade. Last September, the final stages of the U.S. military accord with Qatar were ratified.

According to the above agreement, the equipment of a second armed brigade will also be procured and a third U.S. military brigade will be divided among some of the regional countries. Perry announced that in addition to the aforementioned preparations, military equipment will also be placed in Saudi Arabia and Oman and some U.S military vessels have been stationed in the Indian Ocean in order to enhance the efficiency of the U.S. forces in case of need.

4. The forging of various agreements with regional countries in order to use their facilities. To cite an example, according to their agreement with Kuwait, the U.S. forces can carry out military drills to keep their military gear in a state of preparedness.

In the event of a crisis they can swiftly activate their air power with Saudi Arabia's permission. In addition, all the above countries have permitted the U.S. forces to use their ports. William Perry stated that on the basis of the agreements between the United States and the regional countries the U.S. forces can use the facilities of the regional countries without incurring any expenses.

The latest element in the U.S. military strategy in the region is an operational plan for use of the apparatus installed in the region and outside it. In general, according to the U.S. national military strategy which was disseminated a while ago by the Pentagon, U.S. forces have been deployed in the world in such a manner that they can simultaneously combat two hostile forces in two separate regions. For example, the Pentagon echelons gave a specific example of the possibility of a simultaneous clash with Iran and North Korea.

In brief, the main and overt objectives of the latest U.S. security strategy in the Persian Gulf region is to assist in the implementation of its policy of the dual containment of Iran and Iraq. According to the U.S. chief of the Joint Army Staff, Iran is the "main threat to the interests of the United States and its friends in the region" and according to the U.S. defense secretary, the U.S. officials feel that in current circumstances, there

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is a greater danger of a military confrontation in the strategic Persian Gulf region.

Thus, the containment of Iran is the priority in the latest security strategies of the United States in the region. This objective can take three forms:

a. A permanent U.S. presence in the region.

b. Strengthening of the separate military forces of the regional countries.

c. Bolstering collective defense of the region by means of the mechanism of the GCC.

The GCC umbrella of collective defense is based on the premise that Iran is a threat to the countries in the south and Iraq to the countries in the north.

According to the allegations of the U.S. Defense Secretary, the regional countries stressed the seriousness of the Iran-Iraq threat in talks with him. They welcomed the presence of U.S. forces in the region and had declared their concurrence in the latest U.S. security strategy against these threats.

These countries had also given their permission for the stationing of three U.S. military brigades on their soil so that in the event of need the U.S. forces can use their ports, equipment, and other facilities.

It appears that the U.S. security strategy for the Persian Gulf has been compiled in an atmosphere when the formulators perceived that the period of convalescence after the collapse of the communist system would be rather protracted. The recent moves by the Kremlin including a cold reception to the repeated U.S. requests for an anti-Iranian embargo indicates the Russians' displeasure at the U.S. active presence in the region. In addition the Russians have repeatedly expressed their tacit consent on the lifting of UN sanctions against Iraq.

In other words, the Russians are not prepared to forfeit their former sphere of influence so easily and to tolerate a permanent U.S. presence in the region. This is a source of immense worry for most of the researchers of U.S. foreign policy issues. These include Richard Murphy, a senior expert of the Foreign Relations Council who addressed a recent session on "An Assessment of Iran's Strategic Position in the New World Order" held in Washington. He expressed his apprehension on Russia's designs on the Persian Gulf energy resources and stated: " While formulating their security policy for the region, the cabinet officials have overlooked Russia and are not aware that the honeymoon between Russia and the United States is over. A cautious approach to Russia is now necessary."

In addition, it appears that most of the realities of the region have been ignored by the formulators of the U.S. latest security strategy such as the presence of deep-rooted tribal, political, and border differences among various countries which are members of the GCC defense umbrella. It is not clear, how—with the presence of such political differences—the GCC collective defense umbrella will be beneficial in sheltering the countries of region in their hour of need.

To quote Khalid Bin-Sultan, the commander of the Saudi Arabian forces in the second Persian Gulf war [Desert Storm]: "The security umbrella of the GCC can only open when there is political cohesiveness among the members; this is lacking today in the GCC."

The latest U.S. security strategy in the region has been formulated on the basis of the implementation of the policy of dual containment even though when it was propounded two years ago, it did not gain as much support as the United States expected and most of the Western countries were not prepared to follow the stance imposed by the United States for the isolation of Iran and even Iraq. The increasing rivalry between British and French companies for investment in Iraq after the lifting of the UN sanctions has inspired concern in the Americans. It is not known how the United States will implement its policy of dual containment after the lifting of the UN sanctions.

The containment of Iran also makes practical problems for the United States, especially since the U.S. performance has resulted in Iran seeking a rapid and more extensive broadening of its relations with Europe, Russia, the PRC, and India as well as with the Central Asian countries. In brief, most of the researchers on Iran-U.S. issues see the U.S. embargo against Iran becoming narrowed due to the continued lack of support for the Clinton administration's policy of dual containment against Iran. They also view the prospects of the success of the U.S. new security strategy in the region, which is based on the same policy, with much skepticism.

Radio: CIA Director Advocates Covert Actions

NC0606065195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the U.S. espionage organization, the CIA, has called for increased CIA operations in other countries.

AFP reports that John Deutch, the new head of the CIA, has said that the organization should expand its clandestine activities, including sending spies to other countries. The CIA head has clarified that covert actions against countries like Iran should be increased.

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Bosnian Official: U.S. 'Hindering' Solution to Crisis

LD0106144095 Tehran IRNA in English 1426 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 1, IRNA — Bosnia's presidential advisor, Nanic said here on Thursday [1 June] the United Nations has become a place for the oppressive states.

Nanic who is here to attend the annual ceremonies to pay tribute to the late Imam Khomeyni, said in an interview with IRNA the Western countries especially the United States and Britain have done nothing except for hindering a solution to the Bosnian crisis.

Nanic appreciated the humanitarian assistance of Iranian Government and nation to the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Commentary: Butrus-Ghali's Plan Helps Bosnian Serbs

LD0106180495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 1 Jun 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, on Wednesday May 31, presented a plan to the UN Security Council, putting forward four proposals for the future of the UN peacekeeping operations.

The plan, one of which will be chosen and ratified, includes the withdrawal of UN troops from Bosnia-Herzegovina, maintenance of the current situation in boosting the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] troops to help them fulfill their duties, and finally a reconsideration of the blue berets' role as a neutral peacekeeping force.

It is worthy to note that Mr. Butrus-Ghali has stated his reason for the rejection of the first three cases underlining a change in the UN troops duties. Informed observers, by referring to the fact that presentation of such a plan by the UN secretary general is a result of the failure of the internal efforts in Bosnia, believe that the U.S. unilateral stance on this plan has become revealed more than any other time before. That is because, regardless of the fact that the UN secretary general's reasons in favor of reconsideration of the UN troops' duty schedule will question their existence, has also led to further weakening of the troops and their inefficiency [sentence as heard]. Since this is taken as disregarding the previously issued UN Security Council resolutions it will cast more shadow over the United Nation's credibility and prestige. That is because the UN Security Council had already permitted those forces to defend themselves and take action against the aggressors.

Anyhow, the bill has some undeniable weak points which places a question mark before all the efforts launched by the international bodies to achieve peace in Bosnia. That is because, in the new definition given on the specified duties of the UNPROFOR, there is a likely plan for the replacement of the forces as well. This is done to keep the UNPROFOR troops away from battle fronts. Most certainly realization of this amounts to paving the ground for the Serbs to get closer to their goals. To put it all together one has to say that the nature of the plan, which is implemented with the aim to protect the peacekeeping troops deployed in Bosnia, will eventually work to the benefit of the Serbs, and putting forward such an option on the part of the secretary general will mar the UN image.

Deal To Trade Iraqi Oil for Moscow Nuclear Technology Seen

BR0606102695 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 4 Jun 95 p 11

[Foreign desk report: "Iran To Pay for the Atom With Saddam's Crude"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Oil and the atom — in the sense of nuclear energy — are at the center of all the scheming and plotting that goes on in the Persian Gulf. The two often get tangled together. No sooner does Iran, a major crude oil producer, make a deal with Russia for the supply of nuclear technology than the United States starts accusing the Islamic Republic of working on the bomb. One of Tehran's objectives is to rebuild the Busher reactor, bombed by Iraqi jets during the eight-year war Saddam Husayn waged against the Ayatollah Khomeini — to the immense satisfaction of the West, which was terrified at the thought of Khomeini-ist expansionism. The work will cost about $800 million, a hefty sum for a purse already heavily squeezed by several billions [currency not specified] in foreign debts. On the other side, there is a starving Russia which can no longer afford to grant credit as it did in the days of the Soviet empire.

The solution, as Gulf sources confirmed to CORRIERE DELLA SERA, has apparently been found by Tehran Central Bank Governor Nurbakhsk, who is alleged to have proposed a daring triangular scheme designed to include former enemy Saddam, whom Khomeini once called a "minor Satan."

According to this scheme, Tehran would like to suggest to Moscow that it accept payment in Iraqi crude oil — subject to embargo since August 1990 — which Iran purchases under the counter at way below market prices. Experts estimate that the Iranians pay some $7 for a barrel of Baghdad crude, as against an international

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market price of around $20. If the Russians agree to this form of barter, they will achieve the dual advantage of, first and foremost, an obviously huge profit in actual dollars and, second, they would be helping their old allies the Iraqis, who would thus have found a way of getting their crude oil out of the Gulf and circumventing UN sanctions, albeit at rock-bottom prices.

Governor Nurbakhsh's proposal is reported to have been discussed at an Iranian leadership summit in May attended by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his deputy Amrollahi, head of the nuclear project. According to Tehran, this nuclear project is designed only to provide energy for civilian use.

Saddam's roving ambassador Tariq 'Aziz is expected in Moscow tomorrow. According to the INTERFAX Agency, it is expected that 'Aziz will bring Baghdad's agreement to the UN resolution allowing Iraq to export limited quantities of crude for humanitarian purposes. Such a move could put the brakes on Tehran's plan.

Ties, Nuclear Cooperation With PRC Viewed

NC0306064195 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Persian 1500 GMT 2 Jun 95

[Commentary by Sergey Viktorov]

[FBIS Translated Text] The [word indistinct] session of the joint commission on Iranian-Chinese economic, commercial, and scientific and cultural relations in Beijing has once again focused attention on current relations between the two countries. Considering the joint documents signed by the commission participants, the outlook on Tehran-Beijing cooperation appears to be extremely good. The Chinese government will undertake helping Iran in building a cement plant, and will assist in the construction of a subway in Tehran.

According to the bilateral agreements, the total amount of China's investments in Iran will be $850 million. And according to news agency reports citing informed sources, Tehran, in turn, has agreed to increase its oil deliveries to China. This is of special importance to Iran, probably because it is at a time when America has imposed trade sanctions.

Moreover, Li Lanping, vice premier of the Chinese State Council, and Iranian Vice President Hamid Mirzadeh, the heads of the two delegations, expressed readiness at the joint commission's session on the expansion of cooperation in the fields of energy, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, as well as in the manufacturing of construction and agricultural materials.

As expected, Iranian-Chinese cooperation in the field of nuclear energy was a separate topic at the session of the joint commission in Beijing. Because of U.S. efforts on similar contacts between Russia and Iran, Tehran-Beijing cooperation in the field of the manufacture of nuclear energy has gone beyond the economic framework and has become a political issue. Washington is inflicting heavy pressure on China, as it is on Russia, and it is trying to force the Beijing leadership to refrain from any type of nuclear transaction with Iran. On this, Premier Li Peng said in his meeting with Hamid Mirzadeh: There are countries in the world today that want to interfere with the domestic affairs of other countries. According to the Chinese premier, his country is also the target of such a policy.

Observers in Beijing immediately assessed Li Peng's remarks as an indirect confirmation that China will carry out all its commitments concerning nuclear agreements with (?other countries). Moreover, the Chinese representatives said that the (stand) of their leadership on foreign nuclear cooperation, China pursues, first and foremost, international norms and the charter of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. The Chinese say that Iran is one of the signatories of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, that it observes the IAEA charter, and that it agrees with international controls on its nuclear program. And this is why there is no reason for severing relations with Tehran in the nuclear field.

Meanwhile, the mere fact that the joint commission was held immediately after the declaration on U.S. trade sanctions on Iran shows, to a certain extent, China's contention with Washington. At any rate, the Americans (?will be enraged) and (?this may affect) their relations with China. However, apparently the Chinese leadership is not very worried about a possible reaction by the Clinton administration to a consolidation of [word indistinct] cooperation with Tehran, and the [words indistinct] on Iran has not been supported (?by China).

Georgian Ambassador Predicts 'Excellent' Ties

LD0106083895 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 1 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June, 1, IRNA — The Georgian ambassador to Iran, Djemshid Giunashvili, predicted an "excellent and promising" prospect for relations between Iran and Georgia.

Speaking to the English-language daily IRAN NEWS, he said, "Iran is a very important country for Central Asian nations because its northern part serves as a sole passage to other countries and the Persian Gulf."

Stressing that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always strived for peace and stability in the region, the ambassador said the most important problem besetting Georgia

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is the question of Abkhazia which is an ethnic, religious and political problem.

Before the civil war, out of Georgia's 5.4 million population 80 to 90 thousand persons were Abkhazians, he said, adding, "we have lived with Abkhazians for two thousand years in peace and had no problem with them until the close of the 19th century."

He noted that the only way to solve the question of Abkhazia is for them to observe minority rights and agree to a federation with Georgia.

Georgia's relations with Iran have special features, the paper quoted him as saying, adding that historical and cultural interests and commonalities serve as a solid backbone for the promotion and consolidation of political and economic ties between the two countries.

The ties between the two nations were further strengthened following the very successful visit of Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze in January 1993 and President Rafsanjani's most welcome return visit last month, he remarked.

He told the daily that during President Rafsanjani's visit Iran and Georgia reached important agreements on cooperation in the fields of industry, energy, transportation, trade, science and customs services.

Velayati on Salman Rushdie, 'Terrorism'

MS3105135095 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 31 May 95 p 15

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati by Robert Fisk in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati knows the questions by heart — and most of the answers. Nuclear weapons, "terrorism" and — he nods wearily when the name is mentioned — Salman Rushdie. He is one of the few Iranian officials who does not regard journalists' questions as provocation, just issues which must be gone through, again and again, with little hope of resolution. "We as a government are not going to send anybody to kill Salman Rushdie..." he said. "But if you are asking about the fatwa, that is something else."

You can see why the British regard such replies as insufficient and, listening to Dr Velayati's almost impeccable English, why they are as far as he is prepared to go. It will, according to the Iranian Foreign Minister, be another two weeks before his department responds to the European Union's demarche on Mr Rushie, demanding an end to the death threats. Ask Dr Velayati how on earth Iran and Britain are going to solve Salman Rushdie's predicament and he sighs, very audibly, into my tape-recorder.

"I remember when I was talking to Mr Douglas Hurd two years ago and he asked me about this issue repeatedly and we talked a lot about this question. So once again, I will express our official position: our President (Hashemi Rafsanjani) has said several times ... that we as a government are not going to send anybody to kill Salman Rushdie or others. This is the official position of our government. If you are asking about the fatwa, that is something else ... So we have to divide this issue into two sections: first, the question of the fatwa, second, the position of the government. If you ask if the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is going to send some people or to dispatch some commandos to kill somebody outside this country, whether this is Salman Rushdie or someone else, our official position is no."

The word "official" is the catch, of course. If Iran is not going "officially" to try to kill Mr Rushdie, what does the fatwa represent? What if an Iranian leader who is not in the government wants to kill Mr Rushdie? Can the government restrain him? "We are expressing our views as the people who are working in the government. So when we say we are not going to dispatch commandos to kill someone, it doesn't mean that this rejection only applies to direct action."

So what about the 14 Kordad foundation, which issued a bounty for Salman Rushdie's death?

"People are free to say whatever they wish," Dr Velayati replied. "This is based on free expression. You have the same situation in Britain. When people are talking in Hyde Park, for example, when you go there, everyone is talking about everything." But, I said, if someone in Hyde Park says he wants to kill someone and offers a reward for his assassination, he will get arrested for incitement to murder. Here, to put it mildly, was a ducking of the question by Dr Velayati. "In Iran," he said, people are really free to express their views and criticisms — they even criticise our government, like in many other countries, in parliament, in the newspapers, in the streets. You are here. You have been here many times. You know the reality."

So we came to the tricky issue of the fatwa; and here is what Dr Velayati said: "Imam Khomeini reiterated (in his fatwa against Salman Rushdie) the principle of Islamic law, and after a few months, it was adopted in the Organisation of Islamic Council meeting which was held in Saudi Arabia; I'm sure you consider Saudi Arabia as a conservative regime. All Muslim countries voted for this verdict or fatwa, including Saudi Arabia, and the last time they did this was at a summit in

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Morocco when the fatwa was confirmed by 52 Muslim countries. This is a reality, an issue that is important for all Muslims all over the world, regardless of whether they are Sunni or Shiites — even those Muslims who are living in Britain have said the same. Even before the issuing of this fatwa by Imam Khomeini, there were some demonstrations by Muslims in India and Pakistan — and people were killed in these demonstrations because of Mr Rushdie's book."

Did Dr Velayati sense that there was something unsatisfactory in all this? Can international relations, a subject upon which he has written a book, really be conducted in such circumstances? It was as far as he would go. So we turned to the question of terrorism, America's principal accusation against Iran, along with its alleged desire to possess nuclear weapons.

"If there is any country which wants to be independent, it will be accused of being terrorist," he said. "This is a heritage from the Cold War. At that time, the communist bloc used to accuse the other side of imperialism. The other side used to accuse the communists of terrorism. Now after the collapse of communism, they say Iran... that we are not a democracy that we terrorise others... Why don't you ask them to prove that Iran is behind this terrorist action in Europe or that bombing in Latin America?" After the Oklahoma bomb, Dr Velayati said, some Americans and Israelis blamed Iran but "shamefully" failed to apologise when it was proved this was untrue.

"Another example, when Mr (Shahpour) Bakhtiar (the Shah's last prime minister) was assassinated in France, many people said Iran was behind this, and after a while the French justice department announced that the government of Iran was not behind this assassination. If somebody claims that Iran is behind any terrorist action, they should prove it."

Further on Velayati Remarks

MS0606094895 London THE GUARDIAN in English 6 Jun 95 p 3

[Report by Ian Black: "Iran 'will Not Kill Rushdie'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the latest sign that the Salman Rushdie saga may be drawing to a close, Iran's foreign minister has insisted Tehran will not send anybody to kill the author of THE SATANIC VERSES.

"Our government is not going to dispatch anybody, any commandos, to kill anybody in Europe," 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in a BBC interview yesterday. "This is our determination to expand our relations with Europe. This is a new chance for us."

But Mr Velayati's repeat of earlier promises did not satisfy Britain and its European Union partners, who are still awaiting a formal response to their call for a "ceasefire" that would end death threats without lifting the infamous fatwa.

Mr Velayati also failed to deal with what is emerging as a new problem: that devout Muslims feeling obliged to carry out the late Ayatollah Khomeini's religious edict may act, even if isolation and the United States trade ban is making the Iranian government more pragmatic.

The Foreign Office said it wanted "to see a little more" from Iran. "Its one thing talking to the media, but the European Union still want a formal response."

In April, the EU demanded a three-part undertaking by Iran to "take no action" on assassination, declare its respect for international law and condemn terrorism in "all its forms".

Carmel Bedford of the International Rushdie Defence Committee said: "We are awaiting the official Iranian response. At that point we will be looking for guarantees and for the message to be expressed forcefully to the 52 Islamic states who are members of the Islamic Conference Organisation."

It is understood that there will be no change to Mr Rushdie's security arrangements until such guarantees are given. The author has been in hiding, under Special Branch guard, since the death edict was issued in 1989.

Foreign Office sources say Tehran will have "a golden opportunity" to state its position on June 22, the next meeting of the EU's "critical dialogue" with Iran, when senior officials from France, Spain and Germany are likely to meet a top Iranian diplomat.

Despite the recent positive signals from Iran, some experts doubt whether Mr Velayati and other moderates can deliver. They say the key lies with hardliners who control the ministry of intelligence, which is responsible for links with terrorist groups and attacks on dissidents abroad.

On the other hand, Tehran knows that if nothing emerges from the critical dialogue session there would be demands for a deadline for sanctions against Iran-though the EU will be no more enthusiastic about imposing them over Mr Rushdie than it has been over other concerns.

Other signals from Tehran would be welcome. One would be if the semi-official foundation withdrew its offer of a $2 million (1.3 million pounds) reward to whoever kills the author. That would be seen as a message to Muslims throughout the world to obey the law of the land in which they live.

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But after the EU initiative in April, the head of the foundation, Ayatollah Hassan Sanei [as published], said it would only "speed up execution of the sentence".

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments on Construction Projects

LD2905190195 Tehran IRNA in English 1837 GMT 29 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here today that Iranian experts are capable of carrying out huge projects at one tenth of the cost which foreign contractors charge in hard currency.

Hojjatoleslam Hashemi-Rafsanajani, back from a day-long visit to Semnan province, where he inaugurated the huge ferro-silica plant, said technological know-how has made great progress in the country.

He said experts in Iran have acquired considerable knowledge about ferro-compounds.

In reference to the development of industrial units during the first 5-year development plan (1989-94), the president said the plan has helped boost the the industry and economy of the state.

Earlier today, he inaugurated a new highway linking the provincial towns of of Damghan, Mo'alleman and Jandaq through the desert to Esfahan and the northern parts of Iran.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said at the opening ceremony that the highway shortens the distance between the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf.

He said Central Asian countries are interested in using an access road through Iran to the Persian Gulf, and the new highway has cut the distance between the northern and southern parts by 340 kms.

Over six billion rials was spent on construction of the highway.

In Damghan today, the president Hashemi-Rafsanjani inspected the first solar power plant.

The solar power plant to be put into operation in the near future will supply 30 kilowatts of electricity for a remote village.

The Construction Jihad Ministry has spent over one billion rials to build the solar power station.

The president said that providing solar power for remote areas was economical.

President Inaugurates Silicone Production Line

LD3105130195 Tehran IRNA in English 1159 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 31, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Wednesday [31 May] inaugurated the first production line of Iran's semi-industrial silicone in Karaj, west of Tehran.

In the inauguration ceremony, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said, "At present world all scientific and industrial improvements are based on research and exploration and one main weakness of the developing countries is neglecting reasearch." "A number of goods and equipment that we import from abroad, could be produced locally through promotion of research activities," he added. "Putting silicone production line into operation would ease Iran's industrial difficulties in semi-conductive and electronic equipment," Rafsanjani added.

He termed cooperation and close relation between research centers and factories as necessary and said, "Through the creation of appropriate conditions and relentless efforts of researchers Iran could reach a higher position in research."

Pakistan

Daily: U.S. Needs 'Realistic Policy' in Region

BK0406090695 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 4 Jun 95 p 10

[Editorial: "S. Asia's security environment"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On the conclusion of the two-day meeting in Washington of the recently revived Consultative Group (CG) comprising high-level officials from Pakistan and the United States, a Pakistani spokesman disclosed to newsmen Thursday [1 June] that the United States has assured Pakistan that it has no intention of selling arms to India or transferring sophisticated technology that could upset the balance of forces in South Asia. The US has apparently made this decision in the broader context of what it refers to as its even-handed approach towards Pakistan and India. Taken together with some recent efforts by the US to soften the provisions of the harsh and discriminatory Pressler Amendment, the declaration is encouraging. But the fact of the matter is that Pakistan at the same time is still being denied weapons that it has paid for and which are essential for the maintenance of a level of credible deterrence against an India that is continuing with its ambitious weapons development policy. Apparently, in the course of the CG meeting Pakistan has made clear to the US side that the F-16 aircraft remained a central concern and that it would not accept anything less

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than reimbursement in full. Though the preferable thing would have been for Pakistan to be given the delivery of the aircraft that it technically owns.

It is indicative that as the CG meeting came to a close India announced that it will not freeze its missile programme and that furthermore, its Prithvi missiles which had reached operational stage would be deployed near the border with Pakistan. India has consistently argued that its ambitious weapons development programme had to do with China from where it perceived a security threat rather than Pakistan. The Prithvi, however, is a short-range missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead and is virtually Pakistan-specific. That the first operational units are to be deployed on the Pak-India border exposes more clearly the real nature of India's designs. However, even here the China factor has not been entirely Parliamentary Committee has, reportedly, recommended to the Indian government to deploy these missiles on the western front in order to counter the Chinese M-11 missiles in Pakistan's possession. That is strange logic indeed, given that it was India's relentless pursuit of its missile programme that pushed Pakistan into taking certain minimal steps for its own security. While the US attempts at an even-handed policy in South Asia are therefore encouraging, what is required is a more realistic policy on its part aimed at bolstering efforts to counter the threat to stability and peace in the region that arises from India's pursuit of militarist agenda that precludes a resolution of the core issue of contention between the two countries and renders a destabilising arms race virtually inevitable.

Daily Hails 'Promising Move' on Pressler Amendment

BK0606095595 Karachi DAWN in English 5 Jun 95 p 11

[Editorial: "A Promising Move"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US decision to release, within a week, part of the military equipment blocked under the Pressler Amendment since 1990 suggests some progress in the easing of sanctions against Pakistan. This has been the happy outcome of two days of intensive deliberations of the US-Pakistan Defence Consultative Group in Washington. Although the military equipment sent to the US for repair is to be returned, the decision does not cover the fate of 28 F-16s for which Pakistan has already paid but are being held back under the restrictive provisions of the Pressler law. Nevertheless, one can state with confidence that this development shows that the US now has a better appreciation of Pakistan's defence needs and, more particularly, its case vis-a-vis the discriminatory and unjust provisions of the Pressler Amendment. It is plain that the country-specific Pressler law, which has prevented the Administration from honouring its commitment, is not to be applied with the same stringency with which its has been invoked in the past. A change in Washington's approach to the issue is now discernible, thanks to the Prime Minister's exercise in diplomacy during her recent visit to the US. President Clinton even conceded that Pakistan was being treated unfairly because of the Pressler Amendment. He promised to ask Congress to show flexibility in reimbursing Islamabad for the F-16s it had already paid for. The current decision, coinciding with initiatives under way in Congress to modify the Pressler law, will be interpreted as aimed at diluting the blatantly discriminatory nature of the legislation, which had caused unnecessary strains in bilateral relations between the two countries.

In addition to a break-through in the impasse on the issue of the release of some held-up equipment, the importance of the US-Pakistan Defence Consultative Group meeting lies in the restoration of the negotiation process by the revival of a formal forum for exchanges at the highest military and defence level of the two countries. This had been suspended over the last five years. The significance of this development is high-lighted by the acknowledgement of Pakistan's role in strengthening regional peace and stability. Unfortunately, New Delhi's intransigence on the issue of Kashmir and its ambitious missile development programme have fuelled grave concerns in South Asia, especially in the light of the statement by Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao that the 'Prithvi' missile, capable of carrying nuclear warheads, could be deployed close to Pakistan's borders. This has introduced fresh tensions in the subcontinent at a time when the military balance was overwhelmingly in India's favour. Denial of equipment meant for conventional military capability obviously was a matter of great concern to Islamabad. While New Delhi had access to all the latest sophisticated military hardware, Islamabad was being deprived even of its minimum defence requirements.

In this context, the assurance reportedly given by the US defence secretary during the Pakistan-US talks in Washington that no high-tech military sales will be made to India as part of the American policy to maintain an evenhanded approach to matters of regional importance in the South Asian subcontinent suggests a positive development. It appears to be in line with the regional approach proposed by the US Senate foreign relations committee which includes measures to ensure nuclear as well as missile non-proliferation equally applicable to both India and Pakistan. Removal of restrictions on US assistance under the discriminatory Pressler law would be fully compatible with that objective. The real test of

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an evenhanded approach would consist in doing away with the remaining constraints in the delivery of F-16s and release of US economic and development assistance for Pakistan.

Editorial Welcomes Reported PRC Missile Test

BK0206144195 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 2 Jun 95 p 2

[Editorial: "China — A Principled World Opposition"]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to an article published in the Japanese newspaper "NANKAI SHIMBUN," the People's Republic of China — Asia's emerging nuclear power and Pakistan's dependable neighbor and friend — has tested a missile with a range up to the United States. According to the paper, the test has greatly enhanced China's nuclear capability. We do not like to authenticate the revelation by the Japanese newspaper, because more than half of the world, including the United States, is now silent about the reported Chinese test. However, we feel that the idea of using force to counter force is once again being introduced to the world for which the United States, Israel, and the Indian lobby can be held responsible. While manufacturing all kinds of nuclear weapons itself, the United States has also allowed India and Israel a free hand. However, if any other Asian country tries to enter this field, then it is threatened with economic sanctions and of being declared a terrorist state. The Indian fanatic Hindu Mahasabha-style of "modern robbery [jadid qazzaqi]" cannot be acceptable to any freedom-loving country.

If China has really conducted a successful test of a missile capable of hitting targets in the United States then the people of the Third World, including Pakistan, will like it. The United States has never abandoned the policy of its tightening noose around China. Keeping that objective in view, it has always been floating new schemes about the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The United States' Asian ally, — India — has laid out a number of schemes and plots against China. Simultaneously, driven by the desire to manufacture missiles capable of hitting targets across the Pacific Ocean, India too is developing its (?nuclear) industry. The People's Republic of China cannot remain unaware of the "deceiving of friends." Not a single soldier of the Chinese Army is now present in any country of the world.

Unlike India, China did not carry out a naked aggression against its neighbors. China does not have the colonial mentality. This is why Asians feel that China's military, nuclear, and economic self- reliance might at some stage prove to be a means for Asian prosperity. [sentence as published] After the fall of the Soviet Union, the people of Asia would also like to see the PRC remain as a strong and principled "world opposition" against the United States to check the White House's obstinacy. Let us wait and see how the balance of power transpires in the two coasts of the Pacific in the time to come.

Reportage, Commentary on Situation in Karachi

Bhutto Advised To Use Helicopter

BK0506145095 Karachi DAWN in English 31 May 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, May 30: Prof Ghafoor Ahmad, the deputy chief of Jamaat-i-Islami [JI] Pakistan, disclosed on Tuesday [30 May] that the situation in the megapolis had worsened to such an extent that for the first time in the history of Pakistan the security agencies had advised Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to use helicopter while travelling between Jinnah Terminal of Quaid-i-Adam International Airport and her residence in Clifton.

The JI leader recalled that killing of eight to 10 people had by now become a daily routine. Besides, he said, unguarded statements of the prime minister were resulting in raising tension in the city but the government did not appear serious to take measures to improve the situation.

He said: "As a result of illegal, immoral, coercive and repressive policy of the government, peaceful citizens have been feeling insecure at the hands of terrorists and law enforcement agencies equally."

Pointing towards closure of industries which resulted in increasing unemployment and lawlessness, he expressed concern that despite presence of the rangers, citizens were feeling insecure and, perhaps, the rangers themselves might be worried about their own safety.

Prof Ghafoor said saner elements and those who had witnessed the debacle of Dhaka had been appealing to the government for impartial measures. In view of the statement of one of the federal ministers that the army had been sharing power, it had become all the more necessary for the President and the Army chief, who were pillars in the power triangle, should coolly review the situation and advise the government to adopt a policy of understanding instead of coercion and repression.

'Terrorism' Said Linked to Kashmir

BK0406125795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The federal ministers for law and parliamentary affairs and interior — Professor N.D. Khan and retired Major General Nasirullah

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Khan Babar — have reiterated government's belief in dialogue to resolve political issues. Responding to a number of points of order raised in the Senate in Islamabad today about violence and terrorism in Karachi, they however declared the government will not be pressurized under any kind of terrorism. Prof. N.D. Khan said no political party can encourage terrorism to disturb civil life by using rocket launchers and other sophisticated weapons. He said the present wave of terrorism in Karachi is directly linked with situation in occupied Kashmir.

The leader of the opposition, Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq, and Qazi Hussain Ahmad were of the view that the Karachi situation has been deteriorating and the government has failed to take it up politically. Raja Mohammad Zafarul Haq drew the attention of the chair toward the arrest of Senator Zahid Akhtar and nonproduction of Senator Sayeed Qadir. Qazi Hussain Ahmad stressed that those representing Karachi should be invited for dialogue to resolve the current situation which is linked with security of the country. Syed Ishtiyaq Azhar [of Muhajir Qaumi Movement] denied that his party wants a separate province of Karachi. Chaudhary Mohammad Anwar Bhinder, Mr. Aftab Ahmad Sheikh, Maulana Mohammad Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, and Hafiz Hussain Ahmad also took part in the discussion. The opposition also staged a token walkout on the issue. The chairman, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, also read out a communication from I.G. [Inspector General of] Police, NWFP [North-West Frontier Province], informing him about the arrest of Senator Zahid Akhtar under various charges. [passage omitted]

Readiness for Dialogue Cited

BK0506135795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal cabinet, which met in Islamabad today with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in the chair, took up for discussion the Balochistan government proposal for increase in gas prices. There was a consensus in the cabinet that 26 percent increase as proposed by Balochistan will be out of proportion and will lead to inflation in the country. It was decided that Balochistan should be compensated by other means. The cabinet constituted a standing committee under federal minister for petroleum to decide on the gas allocations to the newly approved power plants. The cabinet reviewed the status of the FATA [Federally Administered Tribal Areas] Development Corporation and agreed that the industrial development in FATA should be accelerated in accordance with the charter of the corporation.

The cabinet also gave approval to the draft of Child Offenders Act 1995 in order to rehabilitate children under 15 who indulge in crimes. Under the law, juvenile criminals will be protected against the award of death penalty and lashes.

Briefing newsmen about the decisions of the cabinet, the federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, said the government is prepared for a political dialogue to resolve the situation in Karachi, but will not bow before the pressure of terrorism. As regards terrorists, the government's policy is clear that they do not deserve political approach. Acts of terrorism are in violation of the law of the land and the constitution and therefore can only be seen in that perspective. In reply to another question, the information minister said the government had started political dialogue on a number of times with Altaf group [of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement], but on each occasion, the dialogue broke down because of inconsistency and difference of opinion in their ranks.

Eight Killed; More Than 12 Injured

BK0606022695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to an official press note, eight people, including two policemen, were killed and more than 12 injured in various incidents in Karachi yesterday. Nearly a dozen vehicles were set ablaze at various places. Miscreants also partially damaged a post office in Orangi town.

A press note issued by the district magistrate of Mirpur Khas said that despite the strike call by the Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf Group, most of the shops in the city remained open. Some people who were attempting to forcibly close shops and disrupt the traffic were arrested. The press note said that the situation in the entire district remained normal.

Bhutto's 'Valid Point' Viewed

BK0306094395 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 3 Jun 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Prime Minister Bhutto has a valid point"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr Nawaz Sharif is admonishing the government of Prime Minister [PM] Benazir Bhutto for using the stick instead of the carrot to deal with the Karachi problem. Mr Sharif has a right to be heard when he speaks on matters agitating the nation. He is the leader of the opposition and also a former Prime Minister. It is in his latter capacity that his comments on Karachi assume greater significance. The people of Pakistan, particularly of Karachi, would recall

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that the Nawaz Sharif government presided over the period which saw cataclysmic changes in the fortunes of Karachi's most active and arguably the largest political party. The MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] was an IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] ally at the centre as well as in Sindh. Then all of a sudden IJI Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Shah dropped MQM like a hot potato. The Army action, ordered by Mr Nawaz Sharif's government, targeted MQM. To this day there is no clear indication what exactly happened. Even if it is granted that the then President Ghulam Ishaq Khan was the one who ruled Karachi, Mr Nawaz Sharif having abdicated in his (and his son-in-law's favour), the then Prime Minister of Pakistan cannot shrug off the responsibility for what evidently went wrong. That has been a real turning point in Karachi's and MQM's obviously ill-starred journey. So much then for Mr Nawaz Sharif's role in the Karachi imbroglio. And for his new concern for that city and the MQM.

It will also be recalled that the present Prime Minister has also had a spell of political alliance and coalition with the same MQM during her first term. And why first term only? Was the prime Minister's PPP [Pakistan People's Party] not hand in glove with the MQM in its successful bid to capture the president's office? The PPP sought and secured full MQM support in that vital election. Ms Benazir Bhutto is on record having warmly thanked "Altaf Bhai" for MQM's support.

These episodes need to be kept in mind by all concerned, that is by Mr Nawaz Sharif (while pontificating on how to deal with MQM), by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (while intemperately reviling a former partner in government and supporter in some crucial moments) and Mr Altaf Hussain when giving vent to his perfervid emotions. In the practice of politics nobody is an angel, and surely none an irredeemable demon. Mistakes have been made by all. The trouble is that when in power people look only at other people's errors. Wisdom demands that when you run into turbulence, stay a steady and straight course. Light weights get carried away with the adverse wind, made more mistakes and end up in a mess. That is exactly what has to be avoided at this moment — by all, the Prime Minister, the leader of the opposition and the MQM helmsman remote-controlling with unsteady hands.

The Prime Minister has said many things during the past one week. All these are in danger of getting mixed up. Let us rely on the cooler and softer observations. She says she has not condemned any element except the terrormongers. She is not averse to political nostrums. These two are more than sufficient to build on. If a beginning is made here and now, wind can easily be taken out of Mr Nawaz Sharif's sails. It should be clear to all that PML (N) [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz] is itching to stir the cauldron already on the boil. The present government in Sindh and its performance is not a very reliable asset for the Prime Minister. Given Syed Abdullah Shah's brittle disposition, his value in an in flammable situation is not awfully great. The PM has set one condition for considering an opening of the political process. The MQM must lay down its arms. As far as the public is aware, the police, the Army and other forces deployed in Karachi have carried out house-to-house searches for arms in conditions of daylight curfew. What is the mystery about these arms? If they are there, what stops the Shah government from collecting them? It is for the PM to unravel this, so that the way is cleared for a return to common sense, that is political process.

Sri Lanka

Arms Ban Lifted; Rebel Link To Drug Trade Studied

BK0206133995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1305 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, June 2 (AFP) — Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar announced Friday [2 June] that unnamed foreign governments had lifted an arms embargo on the Colombo government following Tamil rebels resuming their separatist war.

The minister said the government no longer faced obstacles in procuring weapons to fight the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which withdrew from peace talks to resume their guerrilla campaign in April.

"What was required was not aid, but for the Sri Lankan government to be able to purchase its military needs. This had until recently been blocked by some governments.

"Such obstacles have now been eased and several sources hitherto unavailable to Sri Lanka had opened up," a foreign ministry statement quoted Kadirgamar as saying.

Western governments had imposed a total ban on arms sales to Sri Lanka and even prohibited the sale of helicopter spare parts to the airforce during the previous Colombo regime, which was voted out of power last year.

Since the LTTE escalated its separatist campaign for an independent homeland in the island's northeast, some 317 security personnel and some 351 rebels have been killed, according to military estimates.

Earlier, Justice Minister G. L. Peiris had announced that several foreign governments had pledged "tangible material" to Colombo in its battle against the LTTE.

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Kadirgamar said Colombo would like Western governments to close LTTE offices in their capitals but noted that the laws of those countries did not allow it unless the rebels were involved in criminal activity.

"Many countries were, however, closely studying LTTE links to drug running and this could change things as evidence is gathered on the LTTE's close links with the narcotics trade," Kadirgamar said.

Indian Request To Extradite Rebel Chief Reported

BK0406130795 Hong Kong AFP in English 1102 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, June 4 (AFP) — Sri Lanka has begun processing an Indian requst to extradite a Tamil guerrilla chief and two aides for the assassination of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi, the foreign ministry said Sunday [4 June].

The ministry said India's request for the arrest and extradition of Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and his intelligence boss Pottu Amman and women's leader Akila was under study.

"The Ministry of Foreign affairs is now taking steps to have the request processed by the concerned authorities," the ministry said in a statement.

It said the attorney-general will examine the request and President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who is also defence minister, will give the final go ahead to commence extradition proceedings.

Earlier, Colombo played down the extradition issue as it conducted peace talks with the LTTE but after the negotiations collapsed on April 19, Kumaratunga described the Tiger supremo as a megalomaniac.

India's Minister of State for Commerce Palanippan Chidambaram, a friend of the Gandhi family, said Saturday the request was conveyed to Colombo through a special messenger.

It is the first time India has sought the arrest of the elusive 40-year-old Prabhakaran, whose separatist movement is fighting for an independent homeland in northeast Sri Lanka.

Chidambaram said the government decided to aim for the extradition of Prabhakaran, who is believed to be somewhere in the LTTE-controlled northeast, after studying Indian and Sri Lankan laws.

"After a careful review of the legal position... the government concluded that it would be appropriate to invoke the applicable laws of India and Sri Lanka and ask for the arrest and extradition" Chidambaram said.

New Delhi has blamed the LTTE for Gandhi's assassination at an election rally near the southern city of Madras on May 21, 1991.

Indian investigators alleged Gandhi was killed to avenge his decision to send the Indian army to Sri Lanka under a bilateral pact in 1987. The Indian fought the LTTE before returning home in March 1990.

'Major Offensives' Launched Against Rebels

BK0206084895 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0459 GMT 2 Jun 95

["Pool item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 2 Jun — The Sri Lanka security forces have launched major offensives against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] both in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, a military spokesman told LANKAPUVATH Friday [2 June] morning.

He said that the LTTE death toll at Thiriyaya in the eastern Trincomalee District had now risen to 65 on a body count and government troops were continuing the operation against the Tigers in order to clear the area of the terrorists. The security forces have lost 7 dead including 2 officers.

Meanwhile, security sources told LANKAPUVATH that around 400 terrorists had been killed by the security forces since the LTTE reneged on the cessation of hostilities agreement with the Sri Lankan Government without giving the stipulated 72-hour notice as required in the agreement which was signed by the LTTE leader, Prabhakaran.

Security sources told LANKAPUVATH that Sri Lanka Air Force planes were operating into Palaly military base now. They emphasized there were no logistic problems in any of the military establishments both in the northern and eastern theatres of war and that shipments of sophisticated weapons are now arriving regularly and strengthening further the security forces capability to defeat the LTTE and bring them to their knees militarily.

Rebels Kill 'at Least' 4 Soldiers in Ambush

BK0206071295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0655 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, June 2 (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas ambushed an army patrol in northwestern Sri Lanka Friday [2 June], killing at least four soldiers, the military said in a statement.

Gunmen from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) opened fire on the army patrol at the

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village of Sunny in the Mannar district, the statement said. Rebel casualties were not known.

The violence came as the army fought its bloodiest battle against the LTTE in six weeks at the northeastern Trincomalee district and claimed killing at least 60 rebels while losing seven soldiers. Thirty-three soldiers were wounded.

However, clandestine Voice of Tigers radio claimed the rebels killed 35 government troopers and said only three of their fighters were killed in the fierce jungle battle Thursday.

Over 700 people have been killed since the LTTE pulled out of peace talks with the government on April 19 to resume its campaign for an independent homeland for minority Tamils.

Bomb Explodes at Airport Parking Lot

BK0506162995 Hong Kong AFP in English 1623 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, June 5 (AFP) — A bomb went off in a car park of Sri Lanka's main Colombo International airport Monday [5 June], police said.

The blast occurred near a parked car and there were no immediate reports of casualties, police said. It was not immediately clear what kind of explosive had been used in the attack.

A police spokesman said they had rushed a team of investigators to the airport car park, some 35 kilometers (20 miles) north of the capital Colombo.

The explosion came despite tight security measures amid fears of Tamil Tiger guerrillas triggering bomb blasts in the capital as security forces continued a drive against them in the island's northeast.

It was not immediately clear if the bomb attack was related to ongoing friction between rival taxi operators at Colombo airport, police said.

Government To Set Up Human Rights Task Force

BK0206140895 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government has decided to set up a Human Rights Task Force to prevent the limiting [words indistinct] of people unauthorizedly [word as heard]. The task force will be established under emergency regulations.

The minister of justice and constitutional affairs, Professor G.L. Peiris, told newsmen at the cabinet press briefing in Colombo that the relevant order will be issued to the security forces and the police by the president. The task force will act in accordance with the natural laws and regulations in arresting a person. The task force will be given full powers to conduct investigations on the detained persons by visiting the detention camp or the prison. A detailed register will be prepared by giving particulars of persons arrested. Action will be taken to protect their human rights.

This task force will be committed to look after the welfare of detainees and to inquire into their identity. The detained person after obtaining his release should be handed over to a member of his family and issuing a receipt at the time of the arrest of the person will be made compulsory. The identity of the officer should be proved when arresting a person. The person has the right to issue a statement in any language in any statement and he should place his signature to verify the authenticity before the arrest. The minister said that all regulations in this regard has now been prepared and will be implemented from next week after taking a final decision.

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